THE 5TH ANNUAL
JOHN D. THOMPSON
ENTREPRENEURIAL
DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018
4:00 – 7:30 PM
McGILL UNIVERSITY
FACULTY CLUB

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN
MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH
A GENEROUS GIFT FROM
JOHN D. THOMPSON

JOHN D. THOMPSON, BORN IN
MONTREAL IN 1934, GRADUATED
FROM Mcgill UNIVERSITY
IN MINING ENGINEERING IN 1957.
AND RECEIVED AN MBA DEGREE
IN 1960 FROM THE IVY SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS.

HE BEGAN HIS BUSINESS CAREER WITH THE FBDB PRIOR TO JOINING ROYNAT CAPITAL
SHORTLY AFTER IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1962. ROYNAT CAPITAL WAS CREATED TO PROVIDE
TERM FINANCING AND VARIOUS FORMS OF EQUITY CAPITAL TO SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZE
BUSINESSES ACROSS CANADA. HE BEGAN AS AN INVESTMENT OFFICER, BECAME A
SUPERVISOR IN 1965, THE GENERAL MANAGER IN 1968, A DIRECTOR IN 1970 AND

IN 1989, WHEN OWNERSHIP CHANGED, HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF ROYNAT AND
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF MONTREAL TRUST, ONE OF THE FIVE ORIGINAL SHAREHOLDERS
OF ROYNAT CAPITAL.

HE IS CURRENTLY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MACDONALD STEWART FOUNDATION,
AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF TRANSAT A.T. INC., DOMTAR CORPORATION, AXA
INSURANCES, BCE MOBILE, CP HOTELS, AND SHERMA, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF
CORPORATIONS OF THE SCOTIA BANK GROUP INCLUDING THE MONTREAL TRUST COMPANY
OF CANADA, THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY,
SCOTIA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, SCOTIA GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, SCOTIA
MORTGAGE CORPORATION, THE MORTGAGE INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA, MAPLE
TRUST COMPANY, AND DUNDEE BANK OF CANADA. HE WAS VERY ACTIVE IN THE MONTREAL
BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MOUNT ROYAL CLUB, THE ROYAL
MONTREAL GOLF CLUB, AND THE FOREST & STREAM CLUB. HE ALSO SERVED AS CHAIRMAN
OF THE SALVATION ARMY MONTREAL ADVISORY BOARD. ACTIVE IN HIS COMMUNITY,
HE SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL CENTER AND ITS FOUNDATION.
HE IS MARRIED TO JOCELYNE VANASSE AND HAS FIVE CHILDREN, 10 GRANDCHILDREN,
AND ONE GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER.
**THE PROGRAM**

4:00 – 4:30 PM  REGISTRATION

4:30 – 4:45 PM    WELCOME
Katya Marc
Manager, The McGill Engine
Peter Thompson
Vice-President, National Bank of Canada

4:45 – 5:45 PM  PRESENTATIONS

5:45 – 6:10 PM PANEL DISCUSSION AND AUDIENCE Q&A

6:10 – 6:15 PM CLOSING REMARKS
Professor Benoit Boulet
Associate Dean
Research and Innovation

6:15 – 7:30 PM  NETWORKING COCKTAIL

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Katya works closely with faculty members and students in advancing their technologically-based ideas and research, in the promotion of technologies and expertise of the Faculty to potential partners, and facilitates interaction between the various stakeholders in the projects to achieve successful collaborations and transfer of outstanding research from the labs to the marketplace. She helped put in place the McGill EngInE and its programs. She has been working at McGill for over 19 years, servicing mainly the Faculty of Engineering for their research/service contract and intellectual property commercialization needs, and for helping build the entrepreneurial mindset and skills of its members. Prior to joining McGill, Katya was an industrial technology advisor with the National Research Council of Canada’s Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC’s IRAP), and before that worked for Eastman Chemical Company in Canada, USA, and Malaysia for over six years in multiple areas: technical sales, process and development control, production, and technical service. A three-time McGill graduate, Katya earned her BEng and MEng degrees in Chemical Engineering, and her MBA from McGill.

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Shortly after graduating from engineering in 2015, Sam co-founded Taiga Motors with two fellow McGill students. Combining their passion for electric vehicles developed during their time as leaders of the McGill Undergraduate Electric Vehicle Design teams and their love of winter sports, Taiga was launched with the mission to electrify powersports and accelerate sustainable access to the great outdoors. Taiga embarked on a journey to bring to market an electric snowmobile that wouldn’t compromise between performance, cost and sustainability. Two years later, Taiga has grown to a team of 14 people pushing the limits of electric vehicle engineering and is just weeks away from officially unveiling the world’s first production electric snowmobile.

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Ari is the CEO of Rhodium Labs, a Montreal based R&D firm focused on distributed systems and computational finance. At Rhodium, Ari works with large clients in the insurance, finance and military sectors. He is also the founder of venture backed stealth mode startup working to solve fundamental issues in blockchain security, privacy and scalability.

Ari completed both his undergraduate and masters degrees in electrical engineering at McGill University. His area of expertise is mathematical modelling and embedded multi-agent systems, which basically means he spends his time thinking about how to make computers deal with quasi-rational humans. He’s also obsessed with reading and dogs.

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Michael co-founded Busbud in 2011, and serves as CTO. His team and he are focused on delivering the software and systems that power the world’s largest supply of bookable bus inventory and the products and APIs that allow customers and partners to consume it. He completed a Computer Engineering degree from McGill University, and is a Microsoft veteran and patent holder who has worked on MSN.com, Start.com, Internet Explorer, the Bing search engine and Windows 10. He’s happily married and a proud father of two.

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Michael Gradek co-founded Busbud in 2011, and serves as CTO. His team and he are focused on delivering the software and systems that power the world’s largest supply of bookable bus inventory and the products and APIs that allow customers and partners to consume it. He completed a Computer Engineering degree from McGill University, and is a Microsoft veteran and patent holder who has worked on MSN.com, Start.com, Internet Explorer, the Bing search engine and Windows 10. He’s happily married and a proud father of two.