



“Lifting Off and Flying High: Talent and Success in Canada”

De l'envol aux hautes altitudes: Le talent et le succès au Canada



Conference Programme

February 11-12, 2013 – Omni Mont Royal Hotel

Conference Summary

This conference will tackle the issue of whether Canada is able to support success and achievement in a variety of fields. The questions to be addressed include the following:

- Is Canada good at spotting talent and supporting it through incubation and lift-off?
- Despite our much-touted multiculturalism, do we offer career opportunities to Canadians of all backgrounds?
- Can Canada sustain careers in culture, sports and hi-tech through mid-career and beyond, once the initial burst of success has past?

This conference will look at Canadian celebrity and success in three fields:

- culture, both "high" and "popular";
- professional sports and athletics;
- the high-tech sector.

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PROGRAMME
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES [HERE:](#)

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:
Professor Sean Ferguson and **Jennifer Heil**

Monday, February 11, 2013

13:30 WORDS OF WELCOME

- ✘ **William Straw**, Director, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada
- ✘ **Heather Munroe-Blum**, OC, OQ, FRSC, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, McGill University
- ✘ **Alex K. Paterson**, Founding Co-Chair, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada

13:45 PLENARY SESSION 1 (THEMATIC PANEL) - **INCUBATION AND LIFT-OFF**

Key questions:

- How is talent spotted in your field?
- How long did you work in your field before it became viable as a way of making a living? What forms of support were available in your lift-off period? Were these forms of support adequate? What would you recommend to improve early-career support in your field?
- At what point in your career did you start to see your potential audience or market as international? In what ways did this require a change in the way you did things? What help was available to assist you in making this shift to the international level?

Panelists:

- ✘ **Jean-Sebastien Cournoyer**, Co-founder and partner, Real Ventures and Founderfuel
- ✘ **Jennifer Heil**, Olympian skier
- ✘ **Béatrice Martin** (Cœur de pirate), Canadian singer-songwriter
- ✘ **Tamy Emma Pepin**, Director of content and media personality (*N/A, CNN, Huffington Post, Journal de Montreal*)

Moderated by: **Dr. Brent Herbert-Copley**, Vice-President, Research Capacity, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

15:00 BREAK

Key questions:

- A country's success in technological innovation, we are told, has much to do with its capacity to attract talent from all over the world. Has Canada done enough to attract and nurture talent? Why does our official multiculturalism not make us the leading destination for technological talent from around the world?
- Are Canadian universities doing the right things to encourage success in the technological field? Can we still defend pure, "disinterested" university-based innovation?
- From the Avro Arrow through Telidon and Nortel, the history of Canadian high tech is marked by well-known failures. What can we learn from studying Canadian failures in the field of technological innovation? What lessons can we take from our notable successes?

Panelists:

- ✘ **Sean Ferguson**, Dean of Schulich School of Music, McGill University
- ✘ **Raja Khanna**, CEO, Television & Digital Groups, Blue Ant Media Inc
- ✘ **Sylvie LaPerrière**, Chair, Board of Directors at NANOG/Program Manager, Network Content Distribution at Google
- ✘ **Ilse Treurnicht**, CEO, MaRS Discovery District

Moderated by Heather Munroe-Blum, OC, OQ, FRSC, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, McGill University

16:30 BREAK

16:45 KEYNOTE SPEECH

- ✘ **Bertrand Cesvet**, Canadian creative powerhouse (*Sid Lee, Inc.*)

Introduced by Lili de Grandpré, Board of Directors Co-Chair, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada

Dean Christopher Manfredi will thank Mr. Cesvet before introducing Mr. Balsillie.

17:15 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- ✘ **Jim Balsillie**, Retired Founder and Co-CEO of RIM/BlackBerry

Introduced by Christopher Manfredi, Dean, Faculty of Arts, McGill University
MISC Director **Will Straw** will thank Mr. Balsillie and invite attendees to come to the cocktail.

18:00 OPENING RECEPTION COCKTAIL

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

09:00 WORDS OF WELCOME

- ✘ **William Straw**, Director, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada
- ✘ **Sean Ferguson**, Dean of Schulich School of Music, McGill University
- ✘ **Lili de Grandpré and/or Denise Chong**, MISC Board Co-Chairs

9:15 PLENARY SESSION 3 (THEMATIC PANEL) - STAYING POWER: SUSTAINING A CAREER

Key questions:

- What are the greatest obstacles confronting Canadians who seek to maintain a career over time? Does your field “eat its young” or allow those within it to age gracefully?
- Do we have the kinds of safety-nets or reward systems needed by athletes, cultural creators and technology innovators during lulls in their careers? What might we do better?
- Mid-career success in Canada often means success outside of this country. Is this always the case? Can you offer good examples of people who have sustained long careers exclusively within Canada? If so, what did they do right? If not, what does this tell us?

Panelists:

- ✘ **Jennifer Jonas**, Producer
- ✘ **Steve Maich**, Editor, *Sportsnet*
- ✘ **Andy Nulman**, President, Festivals and Television, *Just for Laughs*
- ✘ **Kitty Scott**, Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of Ontario; former Director, Visual Arts, Banff Centre

Moderated by Kevin Tierney, Filmmaker (*Bon Cop, Bad Cop, The Trotsky, French Immersion*)

10:30 BREAK

10:45 KEYNOTE SPEECH

- ✘ **Georges Laraque**, retired NHL player, former sports commentator (TVA), outgoing Executive Director of the CHLPA, and Green Party of Canada Deputy Leader

Introduced by Elisabeth Faure, Communications Administrator (MISC), and **Petros Psarudis**, Special Events Coordinator (MISC)

11:15 PLENARY SESSION 4: (SECTORAL PANEL) – SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

Preceded by 5-minute presentation by

- ✘ **Sarah Lawrynuik**, McGill Canadian Studies student, organizer of Dryden conference on concussions and sports injuries

- ✘ Special introduction by **Ken Dryden**, OC, PC, Canadian politician, lawyer, businessman, author, and former NHL goaltender

Key questions:

- How is support for professional athletes in Canada reflected along gender lines?
- Is Canada investing enough in our young athletes?
- Does enough support exist for athletes who are injured?

Panelists:

- ✘ **Richard Pound**, OC, OQ, Canadian lawyer, former president of the World Anti-Doping Agency based in Montreal, former Chancellor Emeritus, McGill University
 - ✘ **Ross Rebagliati**, Olympic Gold medalist, snowboarding
 - ✘ **Danièle Sauvageau**, OC, First Olympic women's hockey gold-medal-winning coach (2002), 27-year police officer veteran
 - ✘ **Madeleine Williams**, Olympian and law student with a research focus on gender equity policy in elite sport
- ✘ **Moderated by Sonali Karnick**, former CBC sports journalist and current host of *All in a Weekend*

12:30 LUNCH

14:00 PLENARY SESSION 5 (THEMATIC PANEL) – LIFTING OFF AND LOOKING BACK (Special conversation between Len Blum and Fred Einesman)

Key questions:

- What does it mean to have started a career in Canada and then pursued a career in the U.S.?
- What are the ways in which the Canadian context may have helped or hindered this career?
- How does it feel to be a Canadian working in Hollywood? How does the Canadian perspective influence your work?

Panelists:

- ✘ **Len Blum**, Screenwriter, Film Producer and Film Composer (*Heavy Metal, The Pink Panther, Howard Stern's Private Parts*)
- ✘ **Fred Einesman**, Canadian screenwriter, producer (*ER, Private Practice*)

Introduced by: Jeanette Kelly, CBC Radio One *Daybreak* arts reporter, CBC Radio One *Cinq à Six* host

15:15 BREAK

15:30 PLENARY SESSION 6 (SECTORAL): CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Key questions:

- Does Canadian culture offer everyone an equal path to success?
- Are the Canadian “ladders” to success in your field clear and smooth? Are career paths mapped out clearly, or are they mysterious and uncertain?
- Have you found it necessary to move and uproot yourself in order to maintain a career in Canada?
- Could Canada do better at supporting creators through all phases of their careers?

Panelists:

- ✂ **Tantoo Cardinal**, CM, First Nations film and television actress
- ✂ **Deborah Chow**, Canadian director / screenwriter (*The High Cost of Living* - 2010)
- ✂ **Jack Rabinovitch**, OC, Founder of the Giller Prize
- ✂ **Patrick Watson**, musician

Moderated by: **Ziya Tong**, host of Discovery Channel's *Daily Planet*

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| 16:45 | CLOSING REMARKS |
| 17:00 | CLOSING RECEPTION |