



POSITIVELY DERAILED

Thoughtfully navigating forward

MANITOBA'S CONFERENCE FOR LEADERS | MAY 16, 2023 | PRESENTED BY QNET

Session Speaker Bios

Joseph Chaeban

President

Chaeban Ice Cream / Chaeban Artisan

As a second-generation dairy scientist, Joseph has a wealth of knowledge in the dairy industry. He wanted to give back to the community as a way of saying “thank-you” for sponsoring his wife’s family and safely bringing them from the Middle East to call Winnipeg home. Further, he wanted to find a way to support his family by providing employment when they arrived in Winnipeg. So, together with his wife and their third business partner, Darryl Stewart, the plans for Winnipeg’s first super-premium, made-from-scratch hard ice cream shop were put into motion. In March 2017, Chaeban Ice Cream began its small beginnings. Leases were signed, contractors were hired, and recipes began to be developed. In true Winnipeg fashion, Chaeban Ice Cream opened its doors on the first day of winter in December 2017. Today, Chaeban Ice Cream thrives with Winnipeg’s resounding support and love of ice cream (in all seasons). Their ice cream and cheese can also be found in grocery stores across Canada.

Tanya Clarke-Marinelli

Founder

TC Training Services

Tanya Clarke-Marinelli is a proud Indigenous woman from Hollow Water FN. She served 3 years on the Board of Directors with the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce and holds her number of volunteering positions with them near and dear. Tanya’s passion is to inspire Leaders within a community, one that strives to create a more vibrant and healthy society for their children and their children’s children. She has had the privilege of creating online programs that support this initiative, including Empowering Kids Camp, Empowering Leaders to Empower Youth, and Plan for Your Success. Since founding TC Training Services, Tanya has offered programs that include interpersonal conflict resolution, respectful workplace, communication and collaboration, effective leadership and how to facilitate your own training. However, her most requested program is Emotional Intelligence, and through its teachings she has been able to help businesses and individuals learn how to connect authentically and communicate effectively.

Eleanor Coopsammy

Director, Media Relations and Issues Management
University of Manitoba

Eleanor works with the Office of the Vice President (External) in Strategic Communications and Government Relations at the University of Manitoba (UM). She collaborates with faculties, units, departments, and senior administrators across the university to promote and build its reputation and profile locally and on the global stage. Before joining UM, Eleanor provided strategic communications and media relations support for economic development agencies in Saint John, NB., and Winnipeg where she worked to tell and amplify the success stories of business, investment, and tourism in both cities. For more than 16 years she was a television news producer, reporter, anchor, and host covering everything from politics and business to consumer trends.

Jamie Dumont (she/her/elle)

Consultant
Jamie Dumont Consulting

Jamie Dumont is a consultant with over 13 years of senior central government experience with the Province of Manitoba, specializing in Indigenous and northern economic development. She has worked with several Indigenous political organizations, governments, and communities to create partnerships that advance key priorities. Jamie is also a skilled workshop designer and facilitator, with experience in strategic planning, community engagement, Diversity & Inclusion and Accessibility Strategies, and employee engagement processes. Jamie is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and sits on the board of directors of the Women's Health Clinic. In 2022, Jamie was re-elected as Trustee for Ward 1 of the Winnipeg School Division, where she currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Board and Region 6 Director of the provincial executive of the Manitoba School Boards Association.

David Falk

Partner and Senior Mediator
Facilitated Solutions

As a Professional Speaker, David Falk has been inspiring audiences to prevent, manage and resolve conflict for over 30 years, drawing on his experience as an Organizational Consultant, Workplace Mediator and Conflict Management Specialist. David is an engaging presenter who combines practical wisdom and humour to enhance his audiences' understanding and ability to deal with the many challenges that they face, both at work and at home. David holds a Masters degree in Conflict Resolution and a Chartered Mediator with the ADR Institute of Canada. He has been a Partner at Facilitated Solutions, Manitoba's premiere workplace conflict management firm, since 2003 and is the past president of the ADR Institute of Manitoba (ADRIM). David is a builder of relationships and teams at work and concrete stuff at home; ice sculptures, additions and very involved landscaping. During summer, he is happiest kiteboarding on a windy day. David is married to and inspired by Kalyn; together they navigate the beauty and complexities of their extraordinary family that includes both autistic and transgender adult children, a spunky labradoodle named Olive and Prue the cat.

Stuart Fletcher-Cook

Senior Manager, Carrier Development
Bison Transport Inc.

A proven, self-motivated leader, Stuart has diverse work experience through a number of different fields of operations, including almost six years with Bison Transport in roles that have led him to his current position as Senior Manager, Carrier Development. Stu graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Economics and Finance, along with a proven ability to demonstrate a high level of competency in the fields of finance and marketing. In addition to experience working with multiple local non-for-profit organizations in a wide range of positions, he has developed exceptional communication skills and a strong ability to perform in a team setting.

Shannon Gander BPE, CAC, CM

Founder & Director
Life Work Wellness

Shannon Gander is nationally recognized as a leading expert in mental health and resiliency. She has worked with hundreds of companies over the past 25 years where workplace culture and unhealthy stress has contributed to high rates of disability and staff turnover. Shannon founded Life Work Wellness to share leading best practice information on how to strategically invest in mental health practices that have the biggest impact on employee well-being. Leveraging her dynamic background in mental health, conflict mediation and corporate wellness, Shannon inspires her audience to engage in daily behaviours that have immediate positive results on themselves, their workplace teams *and* the people they go home to at the end of the day. Common themes from participants are, *“she is wealth of knowledge, relevant, relatable, and fun”*.

Pam Grahame, CPF

Principal
Shop Floor Leadership

Pam Grahame is a customer centric leader, a certified coach and facilitator who spent 25 years in the steel industry. Working in a traditional manufacturing industry Pam has been through the tough stuff and knows what doesn't work and what does. Currently the Principal of Shop Floor Leadership, Pam is a passionate negotiator who knows what it takes to get people talking and realizing their best versions of themselves. A straightforward style helps drive decisive results-oriented people who have courage to challenge the hard stuff and succeed. Her mantra: Wear a hard hat – Succeed – Be You! Pam has achieved a Certified Professional Facilitator designation (CPF) using ToP Methods of Participatory decision making, group facilitation and training, strategic planning and stakeholder engagement which support an excellent crossover framework between industry and process.

Wendy Loewen (she/her)

Managing Director
ACHIEVE Centre for Leadership

As the Managing Director of Achieve Centre for Leadership, Wendy is a thoughtful leader who understands what it takes to foster a healthy workplace culture. She has a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Management, and Bachelor's degrees in both Psychology and Education, and has authored numerous ACHIEVE workshops including Performance Management, Respectful Workplace, and Assertive Communication. She is also the author of two ACHIEVE books on leadership and workplace culture: *The Culture Question* and *Don't Blame the Lettuce*. As

a leader, she prioritizes listening to the needs and aspirations of others, and is sure to facilitate insightful discussions on creating positive workplace cultures.

Dion Mckay

Vice President, Pension & Benefits
TIPI Group of Companies

Dion Mckay is Vice President of Pension & Benefits with TIPI Insurance Partners and TIPI-IMI Insurance Partners. Dion started out with TIPI in 2015 as a customer service representative before getting licenced as a broker and gaining progressively more responsibility. He now uses his knowledge, compassion, and professionalism to head TIPI's Pension & Benefits line of business. Prior to working with TIPI, he served as a Councillor for Fisher River Cree Nation for three terms. This provided him robust experience in advocacy, relationship-building, and servitude. He has been married for nearly 20 years and has two children.

Sylvia Marusyk

Founder
MindBody Works

Sylvia Marusyk is everything you never knew you wanted in a public speaker. The owner and innovative mind behind MindBody Works – a Canadian company focusing on creating and maintaining health and wellness in the workplace – Sylvia is fun, sassy and passionate about safety & health. As an Occupational Therapist with almost 30 years of experience and expertise in the field of health and safety, she emphasizes that prevention is the key to creating happy, healthy individuals, employees and businesses. The former host of the 'Happy Hour With Sylvia!' radio show, international keynote speaker, "activation" mentor and industry expert has proven that the way we look at corporate health, safety and wellness is due for a change of perspective; and Sylvia is leading the charge. Her entertaining presentations focus on a proactive approach to building healthy lives and workplaces. Through the use of humour and her incredibly dynamic presentation style, Sylvia leaves audiences laughing, learning and going home with the tools and confidence to change their lives for the better.

Shreeraj Patel

Vice President – Commercial Financial Services
RBC Royal Bank of Canada

Mr. Raj Patel has an extensive background and involvement in the financial industry both in Commercial and Corporate banking for the last 18 years. Mr. Patel joined RBC in 2014 and was appointed to the role of Vice President, Commercial Financial Services in 2017. He is responsible for a diversified team that covers the industry sectors of Real Estate Development/Private and Public REITS, Construction Services, Public Sector, Supply Chain and Transportation. Outside of RBC, Raj currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and is the past Chamber Chair for 2020/21 operating year. He is also a member of the United Way Winnipeg Board of Trustees. He is a passionate member of the Asper School of Business Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Task force and a member of the James W. Burns Leadership Institute Advisory Board. Raj earned his Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree from the Asper School of business, University of Manitoba and his MBA from the University of Phoenix (Vancouver campus).

Warren Peters

Business Solutions & Coaching Manager
Brunswick Steel

Warren has spent the last 17 months with Brunswick Steel as the Business Solutions and Coaching Manager, playing a key role within a team that is developing a one-piece flow mentality in a Steel Processing Plant. Before Brunswick, Warren spent five years at Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters as a lean facilitator working with organizations on lean assessments, strategy deployment, frontline leader development, cultural change, and process improvement projects. Before CME, Warren had a 20-year career in the manufacturing sector where he steadily assumed more senior roles, including operational responsibility for multiple plants across Canada. His experience from the shop floor to the boardroom provides him with a valuable perspective from which to provide guidance, coaching, facilitation, and training services.

Sue Peterson

Production Manager
Ubisoft Winnipeg

Sue Peterson has more than 15 years of experience leading teams and managing complex projects across industries ranging from construction to video games. In her time at Ubisoft, Sue has overseen teams on tools, innovation, and now leads the Winnipeg production team for Rainbow Six Mobile, Ubisoft's first mobile AAA game.

Allana Schmidt

Vice President, Global Organizational Management
IntouchCX

Allana is a teams and leadership expert who takes a human-centred approach to business strategy, operations and scaling. As an experienced speaker, entrepreneur and award-winning leader, audiences appreciate Allana's approachability and fun attitude when she has the mic. With an extensive background in business operations, marketing, as well as holding degrees focused in psychology, philosophy and clinical social work, Allana brings a unique and sought-after perspective to the practice of organization development and corporate culture transformation. In business, as a leader who oversees Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategy for an international customer care company that was recently named a Best Employer for Diversity by Forbes, Allana's ability to successfully create strategies that grow companies and their people in tandem is her main value proposition. She has a proven record of supporting organization effectiveness over the last 15+ years within the tech, tv and film, non-profit and fashion & luxury goods sectors, alongside notable international brands. In life, Allana is a proud first-generation Canadian who grew up on the Prairies and believes the spice of life comes through good food and conversations rooted in curiosity and learning. She'd call herself a foodie, but the only seafood she likes is octopus - does that still count?!

Ashley Smith

HR Manager
Ubisoft Winnipeg

Ashley Smith is HR Manager of Ubisoft Winnipeg, a leadership role she's held since the global AAA video game publisher Ubisoft planted its Winnipeg roots in 2018. She is passionate about her career bringing together local and global tech talent in Winnipeg's techno-creative district and supporting women in STEM industries.

Cecil Sveinson

Manager

City of Winnipeg, Indigenous Relations

Cecil Sveinson and his team oversee many projects and initiatives including the recent renaming of the former Bishop Grandin Boulevard to Abinojii Mikanah, the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord which was the city's response to being named Most Racist City in Canada by Maclean's magazine in 2015, to name a few. Cecil has been an anti-racism educator for over two decades and has been very busy at the city in attempting to change the corporate culture. Most recently, he assisted in the design and implementation of their anti-racism training that is mandatory for all of its 10,000 city staff. He is currently working with their human resources division to implement bias-free selection training to remove personal and systemic barriers from their recruitment, retention and promotion practices and policies. Prior to that, Cecil assisted Senator Murray Sinclair in his investigation into systemic racism and the Thunder Bay Police Service.

Florent Thézard

Wellness Program Leader

Manitoba Blue Cross

Florent's background in Athletic Therapy, post-secondary teaching at the University of Winnipeg, and research at the University of Manitoba led him to his current undertaking: assessing and improving the wellness of Manitobans. As a leader in the development of the first Canadian benefit plan focused entirely on prevention, Florent has demonstrated a comprehensive perspective on general wellness and its relevance to the workplace. Florent holds a Masters in Rehabilitation Sciences from the University of Manitoba. As a father of two children under the age of two, he now also considers himself an expert on patience, curiosity, and sleep deprivation.

Sanjana Vijayann

Director of Diversity and Inclusion

The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

Sanjana Vijayann is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and uses she/her pronouns. Her education is in Economics and Political studies. This, coupled with lived experience as a newcomer to Canada and years working in non-profits, she is particularly interested in understanding why inequities exist, the systemic barriers that exist, and what we can do to create a more equitable world. Through her work creating and implementing diversity, equity and inclusion strategies, she seeks to question, reimagine and redesign systems and practices around us to create a culture that welcomes everyone. Sanjana values continuous learning, and impactful collaboration. With her current role at The Chamber, Sanjana works to provide the Winnipeg business community with the resources and guidance they need to become more resilient, and 'future proof' while championing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Jodie Voth

Manager, Employee Assistance Services

Manitoba Blue Cross

Jodie Voth is a manager at Manitoba Blue Cross and owner of Voth Family Therapy. She has over 15 years of clinical experience with individuals, couples and families, and has provided individual and group/workplace

trauma response services across the province. She has over ten years of entrepreneurial and leadership experience, is a co-developer of the Cantafio-Voth Model for Post-Pandemic Organizational Recovery and provides consultation to leaders on a breadth of topics including workplace crisis and trauma response, leader resilience, employee wellness and more. Jodie has a Master of Marriage and Family Therapy degree from the University of Winnipeg.

Liz Wilson

President & CEO
FortWhyte Alive

Liz was born and raised in Winnipeg and graduated from University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. After working in the private sector at Manitoba Lotteries and later her family business Wilson Furniture, Liz decided to reimagine her career wanting to make a positive impact in the non-profit world. She joined Ducks Unlimited Canada where she advanced through several different positions in Fundraising over 13 years, and left in 2018 for the role as President and CEO at FortWhyte Alive. An environmental education facility, with a focus on nature, wildlife, outdoor recreation and social enterprise, Liz is only the 2nd CEO in FortWhyte's 50+ year history. Liz has seen many changes at FortWhyte as they navigated a pandemic through operations and effects on the workforce, while managing the timing of a major capital campaign and growth. Liz lives in Stonewall with her husband Bruce, their dog, ducks and chickens. She spends her spare time helping out in Bruce's Greenhouse Garden Centre business on his family farm, keeps active with sports, and enjoys all outdoor activities.

Sarah Wilson

Manager, Human Resources
Bison Transport Inc.

Sarah is passionate about people, kindness, and cultivating a supportive and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. Over the past 14 years of her Human Resources career, Sarah has collected diverse industry experiences within engineering, retail, television, manufacturing, film, and now transportation. She has seen firsthand how investing in people is key to building a successful business and creating an engaged and motivated workforce. At Bison Transport, Sarah's portfolio includes employee relations, employee rewards and recognition, employee engagement, DE&I, mental health and wellness, immigration, community impact and partnerships, benefits and disability, and supports the development and deployment of Bison's strategic HR initiatives.

Dr. Shawn Young

Chief Operating Officer
Health Sciences Centre

Shawn joined HSC Winnipeg as Site Medical Lead in April 2020, and was selected as the Chief Operating Officer in April 2022. With over 15 years of leadership experience guiding programs and sites through periods of rapid and historic change, Dr. Shawn Young is committed to supporting clinical strategies to enhance quality and access to services at HSC. He works closely with the executive team and physician leadership to promote strategic medical advances to care and pathways that are aligned with the vision and values of HSC and Shared Health. Shawn began his medical career as a Family Physician, completed a residency in Anesthesia and a fellowship in Cardiac Anesthesia, and then continued his clinical career at HSC Winnipeg, St. Boniface Hospital, and joined Victoria General Hospital. He has served on the specialty committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Shawn's medical training in acute care and community care, along with his leadership experience in both areas, offer a unique perspective to HSC.