

# Future Skills Summit

February 22–24, 2022

## Agenda

### Day 1 / February 22, 2022

#### 12:45 p.m. [Opening and Welcoming Remarks](#)

Speakers:

**Pedro Barata**, Executive Director, Future Skills Centre  
**Susan Black**, President & CEO, The Conference Board of Canada  
**Julie Cafley**, Vice-President, Communications & External Relations, NDRIO  
**Steven Liss**, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, University of Ryerson

The Future Skills Centre and its consortium partners are pleased to welcome you to its first national summit. Join us as we set the stage for this exciting event:

- Hear about the key trends that are transforming Canada's labour market and will shape the discussions over the next three days.
- Learn more about the future-focused, innovative, and evidence-based priorities set out by the Future Skills Centre and its partners as we look to drive action in Canada's skills ecosystem.
- Discover ways in which you can access resources, participate in discussions, and connect with fellow leaders so that you may get the most out of your summit experience.

#### 1:15 p.m. [Keynote](#)

##### **Staying Resilient in a Time of Change**

**Susan Black**, President & CEO, The Conference Board of Canada  
**Mohamad Fakh**, CEO & President, Paramount Fine Foods

Throughout his life, Dr. Fakh has faced great adversity: from arriving in Canada at the age of 16 as a Lebanese refugee with \$1,000 in his pocket; facing numerous struggles, including racism, as an immigrant trying to build a business; to being hit with a global pandemic that has disrupted the food service industry where he has built a successful company.

Through it all, he has learned to adapt and innovate, ensuring both his business and community would continue to thrive. His passion, work ethic, and philanthropic commitments make him one of Canada's most highly regarded CEOs, and he was recently named to the Order of Canada.

Dr. Fakh is a living example of the role that immigration plays in supporting Canada's economic recovery, driving future growth, and enriching the labour market. Hear his experience first-hand and discover how together, we can break down barriers to newcomers' success.

#### 1:45 p.m. [Break](#)

#### 2:00 p.m. [Plenary](#)

##### **Responsive Career Pathways**

Moderator:

**Jenny Poulos**, Senior Vice President, Talent Services & Operations, RBC

Speakers:

**Sareena Hopkins**, Executive Director, Canadian Career Development Foundation  
**Karen Myers**, President & CEO, Blueprint ADE

Across Canada, massive disruption is transforming industries, communities, and where and how we work. All of these are having a marked impact on the type and quality of jobs that are available and the kinds of skills needed to perform them successfully. The labour market is also seeing the emergence of new types of jobs that demand a host of different skills. A new approach is needed to create career guidance and pathways for people navigating career choices through the trajectory of their working lives.

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## Day 1 / February 22, 2022 (cont'd)

In this interactive discussion, hear about the challenges organizations are facing, the vision of what is needed, and new ideas and approaches being tested to build a responsive system that supports the changing labour force.

Our esteemed panelists will:

- Examine the megatrends that are shaping the future of work, such as globalization, demographic changes, technology and automation, and the green economy.
- Discuss the gaps and opportunities to further advance Canada's career and employment services.
- Illustrate the impact that the provision of accessible, proactive, and informed career services will have on those undergoing change in their career journey.
- Share lessons learned and the impacts of their own initiatives, as well as actionable items moving forward.

2:45 p.m. [Break](#)

3:00 p.m. [ActionLabs A1](#)

### **ActionLab A1 – Workforce Strategies for Canadian Industries**

Moderator:

**Nadia Theodore**, Vice-President, Global Government and Industry Relations, Maple Leaf Foods, FSC Advisory Board member

Speakers:

**Adam Morrison**, CEO, Ontario Tourism Education Corporation

**Jeanette Sutherland**, Director, Calgary Economic Development

ActionLabs are designed to highlight the best practices already making an impact in the labour market.

Alongside external partners, the FSC supports innovative projects to identify in-demand skills and test new methods of training delivery.

Join us for an interactive discussion as project leads:

- Showcase the work that is being done on the ground.
- Engage the audience on key research questions and action items.
- Draw out lessons learned and actionable takeaways that you can take back to your organization.

3:00 p.m. [ActionLabs A2](#)

### **ActionLabs A2 – Skills Development for Canadian Job Seekers**

Moderator:

**Tania Saba**, Titulaire de la Chaire BMO en diversité et gouvernance de l'Université de Montréal et Professeure titulaire

Speakers:

**Donnalee Bell**, Managing Director, Canadian Career Development Foundation

**Saul Carliner**, Professor, Department of Education, Concordia University

**Alicia Piechoviak**, Project Director, Groupe Engram

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3:45 p.m. [Break](#)

4:00 p.m. [Meet the Speaker](#)

Moderator:

**Susan Black**, President & CEO, The Conference Board of Canada

Speaker:

**Mohamad Fakh**, CEO/President, Paramount Fine Foods, and Philanthropist

Join us for an intimate conversation as we sit down with Mohamad Fakh to learn more about his work, passions, and motivations. Use this opportunity to ask your most pressing questions and tap into the brains of those who are making an impact on the future of work in their organizations, communities, and skills ecosystems in Canada.

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## Day 2 / February 23, 2022

### 1:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks

**Julie Cafley**, Vice-President, Communications & External Relations, NDRIO

**Sarah Kay**, Spoken word poet

Join us as we kick off another day filled with excitement and learning opportunities. Our summit's chair will share her thoughts and a high-level recap of our first day and share a glimpse of what's to come. She will be joined by Sarah Kay, an award-winning spoken-word poet with global perspective and founder of an education organization called Project V.O.I.C.E. Listen as Sarah uses her own poetry, as well as some of her personal experiences, to inspire us as we look to drive action in Canada's skills ecosystem.

### 1:15 p.m. Panel Discussion

#### Skills in the Age of Digital Disruption

Moderator:

**Nathalie Sanon**, Head of IVADO Training Program

Speakers:

**Armughan Ahmad**, Board member and President and Managing Partner, KPMG Digital

**Sabrina Geremia**, SVP, Google Canada, FSC Advisory Board Member

**Audrey Murray**, Présidente, Commission des partenaires du marché du travail

**Kelly Lendsay**, President & CEO, Indigenous Works

Automation, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies mean swift changes in demand for skills in many sectors. New technologies will bring both disruption and opportunities to our workplaces and economy. Canadians will need to be more adaptive, creative, and collaborative, adding and refining skills to keep pace with a world of work undergoing profound change.

Take part in this conversation as our panelists:

- Discuss how automation and new technologies are impacting the labour market and specific sectors.
- Highlight opportunities and challenges for workers and employers.
- Examine how technology needs to be leveraged to help make training and skills more available and responsive to what individuals need.
- Share their organizations' journeys to responding to these disruptive trends and risks.
- Identify ways we can leverage technology to improve the future of work.

### 2:00 p.m. Break

### 2:15 p.m. ActionLabs B1

#### ActionLabs B1 – Training Canadian Workers for Technological Skills

Moderator:

**Lawrence Daniels**, CEO, Firespirit Inc.  
FSC Advisory board member

Speakers:

**Jennefer Griffith**, Executive Director  
(Food processing Canada)

**Brian Robson**, Director, Business Development and Programs, Ted Rogers School of Management

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### 2:15 p.m. ActionLabs B2

#### ActionLabs B2 – Using New Technological Tools for Training in Current Work Environment

Moderator:

**Christine Stenton**, Project Manager, Magnet

Speakers:

**Louie Di Palma**, Vice President, Programs, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

**Lovey Sidhu**, Director of Workforce Development, SkillPlan

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### 3:00 p.m. Break

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## Day 2 / February 23, 2022 (cont'd)

### 3:15 p.m. Fireside Chat

#### **The Road to an Inclusive Economic Recovery**

Moderator:

**Wendy Cukier**, Founder, Diversity Institute and Academic Research Lead for the Future Skills Centre

Speaker:

**The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine**, P.C., C.M., O.Ont., C.B.E.

**Gary Anandasangaree**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

It's simple:

1. Look out for our email with login information to Braindate.
2. Explore the Topic Market – where all participants (including you!) post the knowledge they are willing to share.
3. Pick something you want to learn or create your own topic.
4. Book your braindates, with whom you will connect virtually during the Future Skills Summit.

### 3:45 p.m. Break

### 4:00 p.m. Networking via Braindate

Virtual braindates are knowledge-sharing conversations that you book with others to have one-on-one or in small groups (via video chat) on the Braindate platform.

They're the best way to brainstorm, solve challenges, share expertise or experiences, while connecting with new (brilliant!) people – all virtually. How does it work?

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## Day 3 / February 24, 2022

### 1:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks

**Julie Cafley**, Vice-President, Communications & External Relations, NDRIO

Join us as we kick off another day filled with excitement and learning opportunities. Our summit's chair will reflect on the summit's key takeaways and share details of what's to come.

You will hear from one to three young people who have taken part in work led by FSC project partners supported by the Centre. They'll share more about their skills-building journeys, share personally about what's keeping them up at night, and give the skills development ecosystem calls to action that cannot be ignored.

### 1:15 p.m. ActionLabs C1

#### **ActionLabs C1 – Scaling Up: Enhancing Access for New Workers**

Moderator:

**Shalini Sharma**, Director, Research & Policy, Canadian Council for Youth Prosperity

Speakers:

**Julia Blackburn**, CEO, NPower

**Iona Santos-Fresnosa**, Program lead, IEC-BC

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### 1:15 p.m. ActionLabs C2

#### **ActionLabs C2 – Scaling Up: Strengthening the Workforce's Resilience**

Moderator:

**Dr. Arif Jetha**, Scientist, Institute for Work and Health

Speakers:

**Joanna Henderson**, Director, CAMH

**Natalie Shearer**, Manager, Future Skills Partnerships, Mohawk College

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## Day 3 / February 24, 2022 (cont'd)

2:00 p.m. [Break](#)

2:15 p.m. [Plenary](#)

### **Skills for a Sustainable Economy**

Moderator:

**Mike Moffatt**, Senior Director, Smart Prosperity Institute

Speakers:

**Luisa Da Silva**, Executive Director, Iron and Earth

**Lasse Gustavsson**, President and CEO, Oceanwise

**Jeanette Jackson**, CEO, Cleantech

The demands to adopt environmentally sustainable practices are growing, and many communities are experiencing massive shifts as industries such as the energy sector undergo change. Organizations and governments are committed to helping people within these regions transition and succeed – collaborating to drive policy change, set ambitious targets, and action innovation as we transition towards a low-carbon future. The green economy is seeing a growing demand for skills in areas such as clean energy and clean tech. To help achieve our climate goals, how can we reskill and upskill the workforce across sectors for the green jobs of the future – without leaving anyone behind?

Join us for this forward-looking discussion as panelists:

- Examine the green economy transformation and the sectors at the helm of this shift.
- Illustrate commitment to support and sustain people and regions undergoing transition.
- Discuss the skills needed to support the transition and prepare Canada to be a leader in the green economy.
- Share their organizations' and outside examples of the green economy journey and workforce impacts.
- Discuss innovative approaches and technologies to diminish the environmental footprint of the workforce.
- Reflect on how Canada's skills ecosystem can anticipate demand for skills in growing green sectors such as clean energy and clean tech.

3:00 p.m. [Break](#)

3:10 p.m. [Plenary Panel](#)

### **Building the Pillars of the Canadian Learning Nation**

Moderator:

**Tricia Williams**, Director Research, Evaluation and Knowledge Mobilization, FSC

Speakers:

**Tony Bonen**, Director of Research, Data and Analytics, LMIC

**Dr. Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald**, President, Holland College

**Rachel Wernick**, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, ESDC

In 2020, the Future Skills Council launched a report that is a call to action for all sectors to do their part in ensuring skills policies and programs adapt and adjust to support job seekers, workers, and employers. A number of those recommendations have been reflected in major investments found in the federal government's most recent budget, emphasizing the importance of skills as part of economic recovery and beyond. Recognizing that Canadians are going to face continuous change during their working lives, the panelists will discuss the importance of continued education, skills training, and access to dynamic labour market information to better navigate a continuously changing world of work.

3:50 p.m. [Break](#)

4:00 p.m. [Leadership Panel](#)

### **The Next Steps for a Future-Ready Workforce**

Moderator:

**Pedro Barata**, Executive Director, Future Skills Centre

Speakers:

**Sanjay Khanna**, Strategic Advisor and Futurist

**Nadine Spencer**, President, Black Business Professionals Association

**John Stackhouse**, Senior Vice President, Office of the CEO, RBC

**Armine Yalnizyan**, Economist and Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers, Atkinson Foundation

Beyond the many transformations of the labour market discussed during the summit, it is certain that the work environment will continue to change in the coming decade. Our final panel focuses on the future of work, identifying the most impactful and important steps forward, giving a sense of the key elements of a future road map for the Canadian skills ecosystem.

4:45 p.m. [Wrap up and Closing Remarks](#)