

Strategic Dialogue: Speaker Biographies

May 10 -11, 2010, MaRS Discovery District, Toronto, ON

Tim Brodhead **President and Chief Executive Officer, The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation**



Tim Brodhead is President and Chief Executive Officer of The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation, a private foundation based in Montreal. Prior to joining the Foundation he was Executive Director of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), a national organization representing over 120 non-profit Canadian international development agencies. Mr. Brodhead attended McGill University and subsequently spent five years in Africa with the Canadian organization CUSO. He went on to do international development work in Africa and South Asia and co-founded Inter Pares, an Ottawa-based non-government organization.

In a voluntary capacity, he has served on a number of boards, and currently chairs the ETC Group (formerly Rural Advancement Foundation International) and is a board member of the United Way/Centraide de Montreal. He is past Chair of Philanthropic Foundations Canada, the national association of Canadian independent foundations, former Board member of the Calmeadow Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). In 2001, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. In June 2002, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Carleton University in Ottawa and another in 2005 from Dalhousie University.

Paul Born **President, Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement**



Paul directs Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement, a ten year journey and partnership with Alan Broadbent of the Avana Capital Corporation and Maytree Foundation to advance place based solutions to entrenched problems like poverty. More than 10,000 subscribers engage in Tamarack's learning community. Vibrant Communities, in collaboration with The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation and the Caledon Institute of Social Policy, is Tamarack's signature work and is active in 12 cities and has so far reduced the impact of poverty for more than 120,000 people in Canada.

Paul was the Executive Director and founder of The Community Opportunities Development Association (CODA) for 12 years, one of Canada's most successful community economic development organizations where he also founded Opportunities 2000, a millennium campaign to reduce poverty in Waterloo Region to the lowest in Canada, which received the United Nations' Top 40 Projects Worldwide. His work has also been recognized with awards from the Conference Board of Canada, Imagine Canada and the Governor General of Canada.

An author of three books, Paul is a motivational, inspiring, informative and humorous speaker who loves the power of stories. He has extensive experience in helping organizations and communities to develop new and sustainable ideas that motivate people to collaborative action.

He holds a Masters degree in Leadership, is a Mennonite inspired by Yoga and Buddhism, and a dad who loves to cook.

**Carolyn Milne
Facilitator**



Carolyn Milne has devoted herself to building communities. As an educator, a health care professional, an administrator, a volunteer and a strategic leader in philanthropy.

Mostly recently, as the past President and CEO of the Hamilton Community Foundation, Carolyn spearheaded the dramatic growth in the scale and scope of the foundation's impact on our community. During her tenure from 1995 to September 2009 the foundation's assets grew from \$10 million to \$100 million and annual grant making had increased from \$400,000 to \$5 million.

Perhaps her greatest legacy is the strategy that was invested in the Hamilton Community Foundation's grant making encouraging strategic planning approaches maximizing focus on the needs of Hamilton's most vulnerable populations and pressing issues including neighborhoods, youth philanthropy, and the environment-specifically through citizen engagement and poverty.

The Foundation and Mrs. Milne personally became leaders in promoting a comprehensive approach to building a healthy community by partnering with the City of Hamilton to establish the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction.

Carolyn's influence has extended beyond Hamilton and she has been a source of inspiration to leaders in communities across North America, Mexico and Europe. In her own community, Carolyn was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow, awarded an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws, by McMaster University and most recently inducted into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction.

**Mark Chamberlain
President, Trivaris Ltd.**



Mark Chamberlain is the President and one of the founding partners of Trivaris Ltd., a commercialization company focused on transforming ideas from concept to sustainable companies and social enterprises.

As an accomplished and proven entrepreneur, and business and community leader, Mark's passion is in driving innovative community development. He is Chair of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction; has spent five years serving on the Board and is Past Chair of the Hamilton Community Foundation; was recognized as the Hamilton Distinguished Citizen of the Year for 2007 for his work on reducing poverty in Hamilton and was appointed to the National Council of Welfare, an advisory body to the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development on matters of concert to low-income Canadians. He is currently the Chair of the Hamilton Jobs Prosperity Collaborative; Chair of the Golden Horseshoe Innovation Alliance, member of McMaster University Board of Governors; member of the Board of the Ontario Centers of Excellence; and Chair of the Ontario Centers of Excellence Commercialization Committee. In addition, Mark is Chair of the Advisory Committee for Metrolinx, an agency of the Government of Ontario responsible for the development and implementation of an integrated regional transportation plan.

Born in Toronto, Ontario, Mark holds a Bachelor of Applied Science degree (BASc) and a Masters of Applied Science degree (MASc) in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Waterloo.

Alan Broadbent
Chairman and CEO, Avana Capital Corporation



Alan Broadbent is Chairman of Maytree, the Tamarack Institute and the Caledon Institute of Social Policy. He is also Chairman and CEO of Avana Capital Corporation. Alan is the author of Urban Nation: Why we Need to Give Power Back to the Cities to Make Canada Strong. In addition, Alan is Chairman and CEO of Jamsco Inc.; Chairman of the Tides Canada Foundation; Chairman of Diaspora Dialogues; advisor to the Literary Review of Canada; Co-chair of Happy Planet Foods; member of the Governors' Council of the Toronto Public Library Foundation; Senior Fellow of Massey College and Member of the Order of Canada.

Gerry Pond
Chairman, Mariner Partners Inc.



Gerry Pond has over 43 years of experience in the Information & Communications Technology sector. He is currently the Chairman of Mariner Partners Inc., a company he co-founded in 2003. Mariner, with a staff of over 120 professionals, provides consulting and professional IT services from offices in Saint John (HQ), Moncton, Fredericton, and Calgary.

As the former CEO of telecom services provider NBTel (now part of Bell Aliant) and the former CEO of software start-up ImagicTV Inc. (acquired by Alcatel in 2003), Gerry has always had a passion for innovation. The Canadian Information Productivity Association named him Innovator of the Year in 1997 and inducted him in their Hall of Fame (www.cipa.com). Gerry has co-founded 10 technology start-up companies in the past 10 years.

He is a Director of Assumption Life, and Chairs the Boards of Mariner Partners Inc., Brovada Technologies Inc., Radian6 Technologies Inc., and Shift Energy Inc.

A graduate of the University of New Brunswick (BA'66), he received an honorary Doctor of Letters from UNB (SJ) in 2005.

Very active in community affairs, he is a Director of Enterprise Saint John, Propel ICT, Atlantic Cancer Research Institute, the NB Business Council, and was a co-chair of New Brunswick's Poverty Reduction Initiative. He is a fellow of the Wallace McCain Institute and a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

He is a past Chairman of the NB Business Council, a past Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of UNB and a past Chairman of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. In 2007, he was inducted in the New Brunswick Business Hall of Fame. Gerry resides in Rothesay N.B. with his wife Anne. They have 2 children; Suzanne and Gregory, both graduates of UNB's Engineering Faculty.

Anne Kubisch
Director, Roundtable on Community Change, The Aspen Institute



Anne Kubisch is the Director of the Roundtable on Community Change at The Aspen Institute. The aim of the Roundtable is to distill lessons that are being learned by the current generation of community revitalization efforts and to work on cross-cutting problems facing policymakers, practitioners, funders, and researchers in the field of community change.

Anne directs a number of Roundtable projects on topics that are key to community revitalization, such as racial equity, civic capacity, and evaluation of community change initiatives. She has been the lead author of four books published by the Roundtable, has written numerous papers and articles about efforts to promote significant change in distressed communities, and frequently gives public presentations on the Roundtable's work.

Previously, Anne spent 10 years at the Ford Foundation, initially working on Latin American programs, then as Representative in Nigeria, and finally as Deputy Director of the Urban Poverty Program. She has a Master's Degree from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

Dr. Bob Gardner
Director, Healthcare Reform and Public Policy, Wellesley Institute



Bob Gardner is Director of Healthcare Reform and Public Policy at the Wellesley Institute, an independent non-profit research and policy think tank. Bob has a Ph.D. in sociology, has been an academic, public sector executive and consultant, and has many years experience in HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and other community groups. He researches, writes and speaks widely on health equity policy, and works with governments, LHINs, service provider networks and community partners to develop effective strategies and action plans to enhance health equity.

In 2008 he developed a comprehensive health equity strategic framework for the Toronto Central LHIN, subsequently co-authored reports on equity-focused planning and building equity into performance management systems, and is a member of the Ontario Health Quality Council.

Frances Westley
JW McConnell Chair in Social Innovation, University of Waterloo



Dr. Frances Westley is the JW McConnell Chair in Social Innovation at the University of Waterloo, where she heads up Social Innovation Generation (SiG), a national initiative designed to build capacity for social innovation in Canada.

Before joining University of Waterloo in 2007, she was Director of the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her research, writing, and teaching, centers on social innovation in complex problem domains; with particular emphasis on leadership and managing strategic change.

She has published widely in the areas of social innovation, building resilience of linked social-ecological systems, new forms of knowledge generation, managing uncertainty and change in high risk situations, multi-stakeholder collaborations and visionary leadership. In 2004 she published *Experiments in Consilience* (Island Press), which focused on the dynamics of inter-organizational and interdisciplinary collaboration in the management of ecological and conservation challenges. Her most recent book entitled *Getting to Maybe* (Random House, 2006) focuses on the inter-relationship of individual and system dynamics in social innovation and transformation.

She serves on numerous editorial and organizational boards including: *Ecology and Society*, *Journal of Applied Behavioral Science*, *Stockholm Resilience Center*, *CBSG/IUCN*, *Evergreen*, *National Advisory Board NSF-LTER*. Dr. Westley received her PhD and MA in Sociology from McGill University.

Dana Robbins
Publisher, The Hamilton Spectator



Dana was appointed publisher of The Hamilton Spectator, a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd., in 2008. In this role, Dana is business leader of one of Canada's most historic and award-winning newspapers, with a daily circulation in excess of 105,000 and more than 500 employees. The Spectator, part of the Torstar group of media companies, also publishes a portfolio of related print and digital products.

From 2006-2008, Dana was publisher of Grand River Media, comprised of two daily newspapers, the Waterloo Region Record and Guelph Mercury.

Prior to his appointment to GRM, Dana was editor-in-chief of The Hamilton Spectator. During his tenure as editor-in-chief and publisher, The Spectator has been the recipient of more journalistic honours than at any time in a generation, including the Canadian Journalism Foundation's Outstanding Excellence in Journalism Award (2005 & 2007), 14 National Newspaper Award nominations, three National Newspaper Awards, a nomination for the Michener Award for Meritorious Public Service Journalism (2006) and almost 40 Ontario Newspaper Awards.

At the same time, The Spectator has earned a national reputation for its journalistic advocacy on issues related to poverty and its efforts to increase Hamilton's community building capacity.

Dana is recognized as an expert in implementing cultural change; he has addressed such diverse groups as the American Society of Newspaper Editors, American Press Institute, Canadian Newspaper Association, New York Times Regional Media Group, International Newspaper Marketing Association and both the Medill School of Journalism and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Sherri Torjman
Vice-President, Caledon Institute of Social Policy



Sherri Torjman is Vice-President of the Caledon Institute of Social Policy. She has written in the areas of welfare reform, customized training, disability income and supports, the social dimension of sustainable development and community-based poverty reduction. Sherri is the author of the book *Shared Space: The Communities Agenda*. She has also written many Caledon reports including *Reclaiming our Humanity*; *Strategies for a Caring Society*; *Proposal for National Personal Supports Fund*; *Survival-of-the-Fittest Employment Policy*; *The Social Dimension of Sustainable Development*; *The Key to Kyoto: Social Dimensions of Climate Change*; *The Social Role of Local Government*; *The Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit*; *Reintegrating the Unemployed through Customized Training*; and *How Finance Re-formed Social Policy*.

Sherri wrote the vision paper *In Unison: A Canadian Approach to Disability Issues* for the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Social Services. She has authored four books on disability policy: *Income Insecurity*, *Poor Places*, *Nothing Personal* and *Direct Dollars*. Sherri wrote the welfare series of reports for the National Council of Welfare, including *Welfare in Canada: The Tangled Safety Net*; *Welfare Reform*; and *Welfare Incomes 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994*.

In 2010 Sherri was selected as a recipient of the Top 25 Canadians Award from the Canadian Association of Retired Persons. Sherri was co-Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee on Tax Measures for Persons with Disabilities that reported to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Revenue in December 2004. She has worked for the House of Commons Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped, the House of Commons Special Committee on Child Care and the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies.

Sherri taught a course in social policy at McGill University and is a former Board Member of the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

James Hughes
Deputy Minister, Department of Social Development, Government of New Brunswick



James Hughes is New Brunswick's Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development. Social Development is responsible for a wide range of programs and services in the province including child welfare, daycare and early childhood development, income assistance, persons with disabilities, senior care and community non-profit organizations. Recent Social Development initiatives include a 10 year Early Learning and Child Care Plan and a new Long Term Care Strategy.

Mr. Hughes also serves as the President of the New Brunswick Housing Corporation which has the mandate of delivering housing related support to eligible citizens.

James was previously the Director General of the Old Brewery Mission, Montreal's largest centre serving men and women dealing with homelessness.

Mr. Hughes transformed the organization from a traditional shelter into a Canadian leader in the reduction of homelessness. Through a new focus on client assessment, diversification of programming and development of creative relationships with Mental Health, Addiction and Housing institutions, the Old Brewery Mission assisted over 500 homeless clients leave shelter life between 2005 and 2007.

James Hughes is a lawyer by training. He has degrees from Queen's University (B. Commerce), University of Cambridge (B.A. Law) and McGill University (B.C.L).

He has served on the Board of various local and national organizations including the National Council on Welfare, Social Enterprise Development Innovations, Youth Employment Services and Portage Addiction Services.

Scott Cameron
Manager, Social Planning Department, The City of Red Deer



Scott Cameron is the Manager of the Social Planning Department for The City of Red Deer. As a municipal department, Scott leads a team that provides funding for prevention and housing programs, a community development team that facilitates local action on social issues, and a research function that supports data collection and evaluation. Within the context of municipal government, the department must continually address the appropriateness of their involvement relative to direct and indirect services.

As a father of three, Scott and his wife Cathy are increasingly concerned about finding life balance as their careers are prepared to consume as much as they're willing to give. Modeling a healthy approach and encouraging balance in the workplace has become an important value in Scott's beliefs relative to prevention - individually, within the family, and ultimately for our communities.

Mark Cabaj
Executive Director, Vibrant Communities/Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement



Mark Cabaj is a founding Principal of Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement, an organization based in Waterloo, Ontario, focused on assisting people build strong communities through local action.

Mark joined Tamarack in 2002 and is currently the Executive Director of Vibrant Communities – a network of communities and national organizations that use collaborative, comprehensive approaches to substantially reduce poverty within Canada.

Mark's current focus is on developing ideas and techniques for understanding, planning and evaluating policies, programs and initiatives that address complex issues, such as neighborhood renewal, poverty and homelessness, community safety, educational achievement and health. He is particularly involved in expanding the ideas and practice of developmental evaluation, a new approach to evaluation which places a heavy emphasis on learning and design in emerging and sometimes fast moving environments.

In the 1990s, Mark served as the Foreign Assistance Coordinator for Grants in Poland's Ministry of Privatization and was the Mission Coordinator for the United Nations Development Program's first regional economic development initiative in Eastern Europe. He was also the Coordinator of the Waterloo Region's Opportunities 2000 project – an initiative that won provincial, national and international awards for its multi-sector approach to poverty reduction. He has provided planning and evaluation support for community economic development and regional development organizations, and served briefly as the Executive Director of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet).

Mark lives in Edmonton, Alberta with his wife Leann and their children Isaiah and Zoë.

Al Hatton
Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Canada-Centraide Canada



Al Hatton is President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Canada – Centraide Canada, a national non-profit organization that provides leadership and programs and services to its 117 member United Ways – Centraides in Canada. In 2009, United Ways – Centraides collectively raised over \$487 million to fund more than 7,000 local charitable organizations as well as 10,000 additional charities through donor directed giving.

Mr. Hatton was the former Executive Director of the Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations, where he actively participated in the voluntary sector, both nationally and internationally.

For over thirty-five years, his involvement in the sector ranges from working with youth (Verdun Council of Community Agencies), to holding various senior management positions, such as Executive Director of the Centreville YMCA in Montreal, and National Director of Job Generation and Director of External Relations for YMCA Canada.

He is a founding member of the Voluntary Sector Roundtable where he co - chaired the Building a New Relationship Joint Table between the voluntary sector and the federal government and was a member of Accord Joint Table of the Voluntary Sector Initiative. He now serves as a member of the Voluntary Sector Forum.

Mr. Hatton also served in various volunteer positions in a number of other charitable organizations including Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa and the Canadian Council of International Co - operation. Mr. Hatton was also a member of a task force set up by Citizenship and Immigration Canada on federal refugee policies and on a task force which focused on employment policy for Employment and Immigration Canada. In addition, he served on a funding task force at Human Resource Development Canada in early 2000.

Mr. Hatton received the Public Policy Forum Testimonial Award in 2001 for his contribution to improving public sector management in Canada

Jane Humphries
Vice-President, Organization and Professional Development, Community Foundations of Canada



Jane Humphries has been active in the community foundation movement in Canada for over 17 years, and is currently the Vice-President, Organization and Professional Development for Community Foundations of Canada.

Jane oversees the creation and implementation of: skills training workshops, on-site consultations, mentoring and coaching programs, the development of CFC's resource materials; and leads strategic planning and Board leadership development programs. Jane is Conference Director for CFC's international biennial conference and is currently leading projects on peer learning programs and developing leadership and convening resources.

As Project Director for Broadening Philanthropy in Ontario's Communities, a project which strengthened the capacity of community foundations in their work with youth, professional advisors, neighbourhoods, community outreach and media, Jane directed the development of six new resources listed in CFC's Bookstore for Grantmakers.

For nine years Jane was Executive Director of The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation and brings to her work the experience and knowledge of what is required to build endowment funds, evaluate grants and implement programs at a local level.

Jane has worked extensively with community foundations across Canada and has a good understanding of the not-for-profit sector both professionally and as an active community volunteer. She is currently Chair of the global Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS-CF) Advisory Committee and has conducted workshops in the USA, Brazil, Thailand, UK and Europe.

Jane has a Masters of Management from McGill University, Montreal.

Ratna Omidvar
President, Maytree, Steering Committee, Allies and Chair, Toronto Regional Immigrant Employment Council



Ratna Omidvar is President of Maytree, a private foundation that promotes equity and prosperity through its policy insights, grants and programs. Maytree focuses on reducing poverty in Canada, and develops, tests and implements programs and policy solutions related to immigration, integration and diversity in the workplace, in the boardroom and in public office.

Ratna also serves as a director of the Toronto City Summit Alliance, the chair of the Board of Directors of The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC).

Ratna is a Fellow of Centennial College, and received an honorary diploma from George Brown College. In 2006, Ratna was appointed to the Order of Ontario. In 2010, the Globe and Mail profiled Ratna as its Nation Builder of the Decade for Citizenship.