



Toronto

MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**MEET  
THE  
CHIEF  
PLANNERS**



**Toronto**

30 St Patrick St, 5th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5T 3A3  
[toronto@uli.org](mailto:toronto@uli.org)

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the ninth annual Meet the Chief Planners dinner!

Tonight's annual milestone is an important way that we thank our senior planning officials from all levels of government for guiding the development of our fast-growing urban region – the fastest growing in North America.

This year's dinner lands in the most uncertain time of any that we have hosted over the past decade. While our challenge to accommodate record population growth has never been more acute, economic headwinds threaten to slow down the delivery of housing supply - notwithstanding public policy reforms that have been retooled to accelerate it.

Undoubtedly the challenge to grow in uncertain times will require greater alignment of all the actors of land development – private, not for profit, and public sector and at all levels of government. It also demands better alignment of development and public infrastructure investments. Not surprisingly, alignment has become the unofficial theme of tonight's dinner.

We are thrilled to be hosting the key housing ministers of both senior orders of government along with nearly 50 senior officials at the municipal, regional provincial and federal levels of government.

Events like this evening's that bring the broadest array of professionals in the private, public and not for profit sectors across the Greater Golden Horseshoe is why ULI Toronto is considered the home of the industry as we advance the global Urban Land Institute mission to "shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide."

Michelle Ackerman  
*Consultant*  
*Kilmer Group*

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# AGENDA

## Networking Cocktail Reception

Arcadian Court - Gallery

**5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

## Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Michelle Ackerman, Chair, *ULI Toronto*

**6:30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.**

## Keynote Remarks

The Hon. Ahmed Hussen, *Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, Government of Canada*

The Hon. Steve Clark, *Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Government of Canada*

**6:40 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.**

## Roundtable Discussion with Chief Planners

Roundtable Discussion with Chief Planners

**7:10 p.m. – 7:55 p.m.**

## Planner Panel: Geography of Supply

**7:55 p.m. – 8:25 p.m.**

## Closing

**8:25 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**



# TABLE SPONSORS



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TREASURE HILL



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## KEYNOTE



### The Hon. Ahmed Hussen

*Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion  
Government of Canada*

A passionate advocate for his community, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen has been proudly representing the residents of York South—Weston since 2015. Having lived in social housing himself, Canada's first dedicated Housing minister understands the positive impact of having an affordable, reliable place to live. Minister Hussen is a firm believer that diversity is a fact and inclusion is a choice. In his new role, Minister Hussen is focused on bringing home ownership back within reach while ensuring that everyone in Canada has a safe and affordable place to call home.



### The Hon. Steve Clark

*Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Government of Canada*

The Honourable Steve Clark is the MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, having first been elected to the Ontario legislature in a 2010 by-election. Steve gained attention across Canada in 1982 when — at the age of 22 and just out of university — he was elected Mayor of Brockville. He served three terms as mayor and, during his tenure, was also president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Prior to his election as Leeds-Grenville MPP, Steve was Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands. Steve helped raise \$1.3 million for the Thousand Islands Secondary School Track Facility, one of the largest fundraising accomplishments for a public educational institution to date in this region. Steve has been a community volunteer for more than 35 years. The many groups and committees he has served with include the Rotary Club of the 1000 Islands, St. Lawrence Lodge, the Brockville Braves hockey club, and the Brockville and Area YMCA. Steve is married to Deanna. Together they are the proud parents of a blended family with five children and five grandchildren.

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# MODERATOR



## Mary-Frances Turner

*Former President*

*York Region Rapid Transit Corporation*

A passionate urbanist, Mary-Frances most recently led York Region Rapid Transit Corporation [YRRTC] as President for the past two decades, until announcing her retirement earlier this year. With a background in urban planning and development and through her corporate and board governance leadership, Mary-Frances has been central to the planning and delivery of award-winning rapid transit throughout York Region. Mary-Frances focused on implementing new urbanist communities and welcomed the opportunity to start York Region's Rapid Transit Plan and lead YRRTC – a unique share capital corporation mandated to plan, design and deliver rapid transit and help shape transit-oriented development in York Region. Under her leadership over the last 20 years, the rapid transit network in York Region grew from a vision to reality, securing over \$3.6 billion in funding from all levels of government. YRRTC has delivered 34 kilometers of bus rapid transit, two bus terminals, an operations and maintenance facility, and advanced York Region's first subway extensions, delivering an integrated system that will serve York Region residents and visitors for generations to come.

In early 2023, after 40 years of dedicated service, Mary-Frances Turner announced her retirement. In her free time, she is enjoying the outdoors, skiing, swimming, travelling with her husband and spending time with her three granddaughters.

# GEOGRAPHY OF SUPPLY PANEL

The demand to deliver more housing across the Greater Golden Horseshoe has near universal buy-in across all levels of government, political parties and advocacy organizations. The challenge ahead includes 'how' to deliver this historic surge, 'what' to deliver and 'where'?

Tonight's panel will explore the question of where we can anticipate the opportunities for residential growth across the region.



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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Stev Andis

*Manager of Planning  
Town of Ajax*

Stev Andis, MES, MCIP, RPP is a registered professional planner with over 20 years of experience. In her current position as the Manager of Planning at the Town of Ajax, she leads the Development Approvals, Planning Policy & Research, and Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change teams. Stev leads and oversees staff through complex and strategic land use planning, housing, urban design, and environmental sustainability studies. She also assesses and oversees a heavy stream of development applications to ensure timely service delivery and manages the delivery of technical and customer service functions. Stev previously worked at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as a Community Planner. Stev holds a Master of Environmental Studies (Planning) from York University.



## Karla Avis-Birch

*Chief Planning Officer  
Metrolinx*

As Chief Planning Officer, Karla is responsible for the Planning, Design and Sponsorship departments. Since joining the Crown agency nearly 16 years ago, she has made a significant impact at Metrolinx. Throughout her career, Karla has overseen the construction and completion of countless instrumental infrastructural pieces and has accelerated the delivery of service. In her previous role as Vice President, GO Stations Capital Delivery, she established Metrolinx's first Project Controls & Design Standards Office, partnered with Infrastructure Ontario on the procurement of P3 projects, and was accountable for the delivery of transformational GO Expansion programs. Karla is a Civil Engineering graduate from Toronto Metropolitan University, and received her Professional Engineer designation in 2001. Karla's proven record of excellence garnered her a feature in the Women of Influence "Meet a Role Model" article and a spot amongst the 2020 Women in Infrastructure Network (WIN) Outstanding Leaders short list.



## Michelle Banfield

*Director of Development Services  
City of Barrie*

Michelle Banfield is currently the Director of Development Services at the City of Barrie, overseeing all land use planning for a municipality in a rapid growth phase. She is a Registered Professional Planner with over 25 years of public and private experience, and a big picture thinker and strategic leader with expertise in policy development, project management and community building. Michelle has worked for municipalities across Canada and for the Government of Bermuda, focusing on a wide range of issues such as conservation, intensification and growth management. She has a degree in Urban & Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo and a Masters of Arts from Athabasca University.



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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Carlo Bonanni

*Senior Vice President of Planning and Design  
CreateTO*

Carlo Bonanni is a Registered Professional Planner with extensive experience in municipal land use planning with particular emphasis on downtown and waterfront development, working at both the municipal and provincial levels of government. As Senior Vice President, Planning and Design at CreateTO, Carlo is responsible for providing strategic planning advice and land use due diligence with respect to prospective development proposals. Prior to joining Build Toronto (now part of CreateTO), Carlo was Manager of Planning Services for the Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) where he was an instrumental member of the Project Team that developed the award-winning Corus Quay building. Carlo also worked as a Project Manager with the Toronto 2015 World Expo Corporation and spent a number of years working as a senior planner with the City of Toronto. Carlo teaches a Planning Studio course at Toronto Metropolitan University and is a member of both the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.



## Carly Bowman

*Community Planning, Manager and Acting Director  
City of Toronto*

Carly is a Community Planning Manager, and currently an Acting Director, in the City of Toronto's Community Planning group. Carly works to find practical solutions to grow the City in a way that supports resiliency, a generous and comfortable public realm, and great spaces for people to live, work and visit. Carly is a graduate of the University of Toronto's Master of Science in Planning program, as well as a Registered Professional Planner and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.



## Brian Bridgeman

*Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development  
Regional Municipality of Durham*

Brian Bridgeman is the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development for the Regional Municipality of Durham. He's been with the Region since 2005 and was at the Town of Ajax before that. In terms of private sector experience, Brian worked as a planner at a major Toronto law firm; then with a Toronto-based builder/developer, and before going to Ajax he was with a Toronto-based planning consulting firm. Brian has been an active member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and is currently a vice chair with the Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Christina Bruce

*Director of Policy Planning and Special Programs Department  
City of Vaughan*

Christina Bruce, MCIP, RPP, is currently the Director of the Policy Planning and Special Programs Department in the Planning and Growth Management Portfolio at the City of Vaughan. This includes leading the policy planning and sustainability team and a collection of capital works, development projects and strategic initiatives that together shape the form, identity and experience of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre and Yonge and Steeles Intensification Area. She leads a team of staff that promotes the creation of quality communities in the City by providing Council with Planning Act based policy tools to guide the growth and physical development of the City. She is an innovative and energetic strategy development professional with over 25 years of experience in designing, implementing, managing, and leading planning projects for municipalities and organizations across Canada.



## Tara Buonpensiero

*Acting Chief Planner and Director of Planning and Development Services  
Region of Peel*

Tara Buonpensiero is the Acting Chief Planner and Director of Planning and Development Services at the Region of Peel. She has over 25 years of planning experience in both local and regional planning. In this position, she works with a very talented team that provides important long-range policy and growth management, development services and servicing connections functions. Over her career, Tara has worked on many interesting and challenging projects, primarily focused on policy planning, including preparing new local and regional Official Plans, community improvement plans, and secondary planning. She is passionate about helping young planners develop skills to advance their careers to become the next generation of planning leaders. Tara is a Registered Professional Planner and is an active member of the Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario.



## Gabe Charles

*Director of Planning Services  
Town of Oakville*

Gabe Charles, MCIP, RPP has over 20 years of professional experience in the fields of Urban Design and Planning, entirely in the public sector working on various urban design, development review, and policy projects. As a team lead, he has guided Official Plan Reviews, Secondary Plans, Master Plans and major policy studies. He works with a highly-talented team in promoting design excellence through city building. Gabe has been an active member of OPPI and CIP, former vice-chair of London's design review panel, a Fellow with the Urban Design Forum (NY) and a Board member of the Council for Canadian Urbanism (CanU).

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Brandon Correia

*Manager of Planning  
Town of Innisfil*

Brandon Correia is the Manager of Planning at the Town of Innisfil, where he oversees the development planning and policy planning sections. He has collaborated on a wide range of projects and city-wide studies, including the Vaughan Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review. Brandon provides leadership in planning for healthy and complete communities. He holds an honours degree in Planning from the University of Waterloo, with a specialization in land development.



## Meg Davis

*Chief Development Officer  
Waterfront Toronto*

Meg Davis is the Chief Development Officer for Waterfront Toronto and is responsible for leading the strategic development of its lands as part of its revitalization efforts. This includes overseeing creation of the public infrastructure and coordinating the planning, design and construction phases of these significant developments. In addition, she leads the selection processes and on-going relationships with development partners to ensure development contributes to meeting the corporate objectives of high design and complete sustainable and inclusive neighbourhoods. Meg brings over 35 years of experience as a planner and real estate expert for both the public and private sector including Bramalea Limited and KPMG. She has a Master's in Business Administration and an Undergraduate Degree in Urban Studies. Meg is a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, Ontario Professional Planners Institute, Urban Land Institute and Lambda Alpha International.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Sean Fraser

*Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Growth  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)*

Sean Fraser is the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Planning and Growth Division at MMAH. Sean leads the team responsible for land use planning and building development policy including the Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement, Ministry-administered provincial land use plans, including A Place to Grow and the Greenbelt, and the Ontario Building Code. Prior to this role Sean was the Director of Municipal Services Office – Central (MMAH) and before that the Director of the Provincial Planning Policy Branch (MMAH). He has also served as Director of Programs and Services at the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries as well as Director of Programs and Operations at the Ontario Heritage Trust. Prior to joining the Ontario Public Service in 2001, he worked for the City of Toronto in the Culture Division and at Toronto Historical Board. He has also taught at the University of Victoria (2012-21) and worked as a consultant undertaking cultural tourism and economic revitalization projects in Canada, the United States, the Caribbean and Middle East. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies and Art History from the University of British Columbia, a Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies (Architecture) and a Master of Environmental Design Studies (Conservation) both from Dalhousie University.



## Paul Freeman

*Chief Planner  
The Regional Municipality of York*

Paul Freeman is the Chief Planner for The Regional Municipality of York. In his position, Paul is responsible for managing growth and implementing long-term development in the Region. He leads the Region's Planning and Economic Development that includes Long-range Planning, Community Planning and Development Services, and Economic Strategy. Paul has held various positions as a municipal land use planner with more than 30 years in the public sector. He is a Registered Professional Planner, holds a degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ryerson University and a diploma in Public Administration from the University of Western Ontario. Paul is an active member of the Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario (RPCO) and is the Chair of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Caucus of RPCO.



## Steve Ganesh

*Commissioner of Planning, Building & Growth Management  
City of Brampton*

Steve Ganesh is a Registered Professional Planner and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, holding 25 years of experience in various aspects of city building. In his role as Commissioner, Steve provides leadership and oversight to over 200 staff charged with the implementation and delivery of key Council priorities and projects in Canada's ninth largest City. Prior to joining the City, Steve worked at the Region of Peel, Ministry of Transportation and City of Mississauga in areas of strategic policy and transportation planning. Steve has been a resident of Brampton for 48 years and his passion for his city comes through in his leadership and decision-making. He has played an integral role in the community serving as Chair of the City's 2022 United Way Campaign and a past board member of Volunteer MBC.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Chris Glaisek

*Chief Planning and Design Officer  
Waterfront Toronto*

Chris Glaisek is the Chief Planning and Design Officer at Waterfront Toronto, where he is responsible for precinct planning and design in the 2,000-acre Designated Waterfront Area. Chris is a strong advocate for design excellence and strives to achieve high standards in development of new parks, buildings, streetscapes and infrastructure. Under Chris's stewardship, Waterfront Toronto has received more than 80 national and international design awards and nominations for its master plans, parks, and streetscape designs. Chris lectures regularly on the history and development of the waterfront. He lives in Toronto's Annex in a house he designed with his wife.



## Barbara Gray

*General Manager of Transportation Services  
City of Toronto*

As General Manager of Transportation Services, Barbara Gray is driven by her commitment to innovation. She joined the City of Toronto in late 2016 and has since successfully led her team to implement complete streets in many communities, improve service delivery and renew key delivery plans; including the MoveTO Congestion Management Plan, the Cycling Network Plan, Toronto's Vision Zero 2.0 program and the continued rapid response to the COVID Pandemic through programs that encourage active transportation, physical distancing and outdoor dining. Barbara is focused on building equity into decision making, improving multimodal design and leveraging technology and data to drive better project outcomes. Prior to joining the City of Toronto, she served as Deputy Director of the Transportation Department in Seattle.



## Heather Grey-Wolf

*Chief Development Officer  
Infrastructure Ontario*

As Chief Development Officer, Heather Grey-Wolf oversees IO's work on transit-oriented communities, leveraging surplus lands for government priorities such as long-term care and attainable/affordable housing, as well as leading master development exercises for landmark projects like the redevelopment of Ontario Place. As a senior development leader with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) for seven years, Heather led the revitalization of the 69-acre Regent Park, the largest urban renewal project in Canada. Heather's team was responsible for the relocation of 2,000 families, the demolition of 54 buildings, and the delivery of roads, parks, community infrastructure, 300,000 square feet of commercial space, and 7,500 units of multi-family housing. Heather is passionate about the outdoors and spends her spare time swimming, running, biking, and hiking with her family. Heather has an MBA from the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, a B.Arch and B.Sc from McGill University, and is a licensed architect with the Ontario Association of Architects.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Vic Gupta

*Chief Executive Officer  
CreateTO*

As CEO of CreateTO, Vic Gupta is focused on managing the stewardship of the City of Toronto's real estate assets and optimizing the portfolio to deliver city-building benefits, enable City program solutions and ensure cost-effective program delivery. He served as Principal Secretary to Mayor John Tory during the Mayor's first term in office. Prior to his time at City Hall, he ran Prime Strategies Group, a public affairs consulting business that he founded in 1999. When the company was acquired in 2011 he ran for elected office, twice as a candidate for the Member of Provincial Parliament in the riding of Richmond Hill. He has an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Western Ontario.



## Quentin Hanchard

*Chief Administrative Officer  
Credit Valley Conservation*

Quentin Hanchard is the Chief Administrative Officer at Credit Valley Conservation. Prior to joining CVC, Quentin worked at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for 18 years and was the Associate Director, Development Planning and Permits. Quentin was also part-time faculty and a course director at York University in the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Quentin holds a master's degree in environmental studies and planning from York University and an undergraduate degree in geography from the University of British Columbia. He is a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, a Registered Professional Planner in the Province of Ontario, a Certified Environmental Professional, and a Professional Land Economist. His 24-year career in the environmental community includes a strong focus on partnership building – balancing environmental, economic, and social imperatives. Quentin lives in Toronto with his wife and three daughters. When not at work, he enjoys biking, swimming, hiking, and spending time with his family.



## Jessica Hawes

*Acting Chief Development Officer  
Toronto Community Housing*

Jessica Hawes is the Acting Chief Development Officer with Toronto Community Housing. She is an architect, planner and urban designer with more than 20 years of experience in the sustainable planning, design and construction of urban spaces and cities. Jessica's planning and architectural expertise has focused on the design, approval and construction of buildings and public spaces that promote healthy cities. Her experience extends internationally to residential developments, public spaces, art centres, retail centres, waterfronts, and office/ commercial spaces. Prior to her appointment as Acting Chief Development Officer, Jessica was Senior Development Director responsible for leading Toronto Community Housing's revitalization projects in Lawrence Heights, 250 Davenport and Firgrove.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Jill Hogan

*Commissioner of Development Services  
Town of Milton*

Jill Hogan is currently the Commissioner of Development Services for the Town of Milton. Over the course of 24 years, Jill has worked in the municipal land use planning field and has successfully led teams at the City of Brampton, City of Toronto and most recently at the Town of Milton. Jill has built a reputation based on her ability and drive to formulate innovative approaches to achieve high quality urban development through creative collaboration with Council, community stakeholders and developers. She holds the designation of Registered Professional Planner (RPP) through the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and is a full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.



## Julie Insley

*Director General of Integrated Regional Planning  
Infrastructure Canada*

Since 2021, Julie Insley, Director General of Integrated Regional Planning at Infrastructure Canada, has been leading a new team with staff in Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, and Québec City. As part of the department's Policy and Results Branch, her directorate supports the development of new infrastructure program design and implementation, providing a place-based perspective to help guide future investments in transit and other infrastructure. Prior to Infrastructure Canada, Julie was the Quebec Regional Director General at Innovation, Science and Economic Development since 2013. Julie previously worked for nearly 20 years at Global Affairs Canada, where she held several roles in Montreal and Ottawa, including Director of the Quebec Regional Office, the International Trade Portfolio Division, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Division. Julie also served as Trade Commissioner in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1996 to 1999. Julie has a Bachelor of Commerce from McMaster University.



## Tami Kitay

*Director of Planning and Building Services  
City of St. Catharines*

Tami Kitay, MPA MCIP RPP is the Director of Planning and Building Services for the City of St. Catharines in Niagara Region. Her portfolio includes Planning, Heritage, Urban Design, Building, By-law Enforcement, and Development Engineering. She holds an Honours Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo and a Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of Western Ontario. Tami is a Registered Professional Planner with over 22 years of experience in progressive planning roles at the Cities of Burlington, Barrie, Hamilton, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, and the former Ontario Municipal Board. Known for bringing public realm vision to the forefront of her planning work, she promotes a collaborative approach to community development.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Kyle Knoeck

*Director of Zoning and Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment  
City of Toronto*

Kyle Knoeck is City of Toronto's Director of Zoning and Secretary-Treasurer of Committee of Adjustment. He provides leadership to Toronto's zoning regime and to service delivery and service improvement in the Committee of Adjustment. Kyle has overseen the development of the policy framework to permit multi-tenant houses, updated zoning for Employment Lands, improved practices for site-specific zoning by-laws, and the review of zoning to permit "missing middle" housing types. Kyle's career began at the City of Toronto in 1999 as a community planner. He has since led the original Regent Park revitalization planning review, was the planner on the Lawrence Heights Revitalization Project and the Community Planning Manager for the Unilever Precinct Plan, the Port Lands Planning Framework and many more. Kyle is a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a Registered Professional Planner, and holds a Master of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto.



## Kelvin Kwan

*Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services  
City of Richmond Hill*

Kelvin Kwan is a highly experienced senior public servant. He has spent his career in local municipal planning in various area municipalities in York Region. While he has been involved in all aspects of local planning, his most recent experience has been in Development Planning. Kelvin is a graduate from the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University). In his current position as Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services for the City of Richmond Hill he is leading the initiation of the City's first Comprehensive Zoning By-law and preparation of the Secondary Plan for the Regional Growth Centre at Yonge/Hwy. 7 in anticipation of the Yonge subway extension.



## Hugh Lynch

*Manager of Development and Design, South district  
City of Mississauga*

Hugh Lynch is the manager of Development and Design in the south district of Mississauga. Hugh recently led the development approvals for two major brownfield development sites on Mississauga's waterfront that will transform this area of the city. Currently, he is managing a number of development projects in Port Credit, Clarkson, and recently converted employment lands along the Dundas Street East corridor.



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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Heather MacDonald

*Executive Lead, Burlington Land Partnership  
City of Burlington*

Heather MacDonald is the Executive Lead, Burlington Land Partnership. She is the former Executive Director of Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility at the City of Burlington. Previously, she was in the roles of VP of Project Planning at Metrolinx and Commissioner of Planning and Building for the City of Brampton after a long and varied career with the City of Mississauga in numerous positions in the Corporation including Director of Policy Planning. She is both a Registered Professional Planner and Certified Human Resources Leader.



## John MacKenzie

*Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)*

John MacKenzie, Sc.(PL) MCIP, RPP is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and a Director on the Board of Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF). John and his team strive to strengthen relationships between TRCA, its partners, and stakeholders through partnerships with all levels of government and community organizations, improving client service, and successfully delivering programs and projects. John holds a Master's of Science Degree in Planning from the University of Toronto and an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography and Urban and Environmental Studies from Brock University. John has served on government advisory panels including the Crombie Panel for the Coordinated Review of the Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Niagara Escarpment Plan and is currently serving on the Province's Conservation Authorities Working Group to provide advice on regulatory changes and guidance documents. John is a member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and Canadian Institute of Planners.



## Kate Manson-Smith

*Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

Kate Manson-Smith was appointed Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on December 9, 2019. Since joining the Ontario Public Service in 1998, Kate has held a number of executive roles. Kate served as the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Local Government and Planning Policy Division at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (2014-2019) and prior to this, was the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health Promotion of the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (2011-2014). She has also held executive roles at Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Kate holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in History and Masters in Public Administration, both from Queen's University.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Antonietta Minichillo

*Chief Planner / Director of Planning  
Town of Caledon*

Antonietta Minichillo (she/her) is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and holds a Masters Degree in Environmental Studies (Planning). Antonietta has a successful record in leading teams responsible for a diverse range of planning portfolios, including Policy, Development, Housing and Age-Friendly Communities. She played a key role in initiatives focused on sustainability, climate change, and resilience. She has led transformational visioning and planning sessions for every facet of complete communities and community well-being. Antonietta's progressive work style is centered on collaboration, strategic action, and empowerment. She thrives on bringing forward and fostering new ideas and approaches that inspire others, and supports approaches where all partners, agencies, and stakeholders contribute to a future we can all be proud of.



## Michael Mizzi

*Director of Community Planning, Etobicoke York District  
City of Toronto*

Michael Mizzi is the Director of Community Planning for the Etobicoke York District for the City of Toronto. Between 2017 and 2020, he was Director of Zoning and Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment for the City of Toronto. He is also Director Budget Lead for the Toronto City Planning Division. From 2013 to 2016, he was the Chief of Development Review Services for the City of Ottawa, and then the Acting General Manager of Planning and Growth Management responsible for the delivery of all planning and Building Code services. Earlier roles in his career included Acting Director of Community Planning and Special Projects for the City of Toronto, where he focused on corporate priorities for the City Planning Division.



## Gary Muller

*Director of Planning  
Durham Region*

Gary Muller is the Director of Planning for Durham Region. With 30 years of planning experience, Gary is responsible for leading the activities of the Region's Planning Division, through Policy Planning and Special Studies, Transportation Planning and Plan Implementation. Gary is currently overseeing the Region's Official Plan review, the Regional Cycling Plan update, improvements to business processes and the Region's review of planning and development applications. Over his career, Gary has led in the preparation of official plans, facilitated downtown redevelopment projects, community improvement plans and a variety of development projects. Gary has a Master's Degree in Urban and Rural Planning from Dalhousie University and is Registered Professional Planner.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Michael Norton

*Chief Development Officer  
Metrolinx*

Michael Norton is the Chief Development Officer at Metrolinx, where he oversees the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Program at Metrolinx for the GO Heavy Rail and LRT portfolios, management of the Metrolinx owned real estate portfolio and adjacent development reviews. Michael has been involved in large transit infrastructure and real estate projects, including East Side Access in New York, the Red Line in Tel Aviv, the vivaNext BRT in York Region and the Eglinton Crosstown LRT in Toronto. Michael holds a bachelor's degree in Architectural Studies from the University of Waterloo and a Master of Science in Real Estate Development from Columbia University in New York, NY.



## Arvin Prasad

*Commissioner of Development Services  
City of Markham*

Arvin Prasad is the Commissioner, Development Services for the City of Markham. His portfolio includes Planning and Urban Design; Engineering; Building Standards; and Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship; Policy & Research; and Strategy & Innovation. Arvin holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Urban and Regional Planning and a Masters of Public Administration in local government. He is a professional planner with over 30 years of progressive experience in the areas of policy and development planning. Arvin has been a long-time proponent for complete and well-planned communities. Arvin is currently providing his expertise in leading the development and implementation of plans to ensure the City of Markham's growth and development is planned and managed to achieve a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable community. More specifically, Arvin is responsible for ensuring Markham's development, economic and cultural programs meet the needs of a dynamic, fast growing, and diverse community now and into the future. He has experience in conflict resolution, project management and various leadership topics.



## Kyle Rainbow

*Director of Development Services  
Town of Uxbridge*

Kyle Rainbow is the Director of Development Services for the Town of Uxbridge, overseeing Planning Services, Development Services & Engineering, Economic Development and the Building Department for the Town and surrounding Township. He holds an Honours Degree from the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo with a specialization in Urban Design and is a LEED Accredited Professional. Prior to joining the Town of Uxbridge, Kyle worked in the private sector on complex projects in municipalities across the GTA. This experience has allowed him to understand the role that Planning departments should play in the creation of successful projects, districts, neighbourhoods and beyond. Kyle is currently working on a comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Plan for the Town of Uxbridge along with an associated Community Improvement Plan, as well as updating the Township's Master Parks Plan and creating policy to support sustainable development and tree protection in the Township.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Kelly Rintoul

*Chief Operating Officer  
Artscape*

Kelly Rintoul brings over 15 years of city building, creative placemaking and community engagement experience. She has managed complex capital projects, facilitated deep community engagement initiatives and orchestrated organizational change throughout her career.



## Steve Robichaud

*Chief Planner  
City of Hamilton*

Steve Robichaud is the Chief Planner for the City of Hamilton. Steve is the driving force behind the City's long-term growth management strategy which is now being implemented through a new Official Plan, secondary plans and a new comprehensive zoning by-law for the City. Over the last 4 years, he has led and overseen the preparation of several award winning major initiatives including a new secondary plan and zoning for the Downtown, public engagement strategies, new simplified zoning in urban and rural areas of Hamilton and has led the Division's Open for Business initiatives to assist clients and lead continuous improvement initiatives. Steve's innovative and creative approach to complex planning issues and developing his staff's capacity to deliver innovative solutions has been recognized by Canadian Institute of Planners, Ontario Professional Planners Institute and Canadian Association of Certified Planning Technicians. Steve is a registered professional planner, and both a graduate of McMaster University and the University of Toronto.



## Catherine Rose

*Chief Planner  
City of Pickering*

Catherine Rose, RPP, is a graduate of the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies (Honours Geography). She is a member of CIP and OPPI. Catherine became the Chief Planner for the City of Pickering in January 2013. Prior to that, she had spent over twenty years as the Manager, Policy for Pickering. Last year, Catherine oversaw the completion of the City's Kingston Road Corridor and Brock Specialty Retailing Node Intensification study, and the related implementing official plan amendment. Work then began on the related zoning amendment so that this strategic growth area would be prime for development. She has been involved in assessing, commenting on, and implementing major Provincial policy and legislative initiatives, as well as commenting on the Region of Durham's Municipal Comprehensive Review of its Official Plan. Further, she has been overseeing the consulting team preparing a secondary plan for Northeast Pickering - an area anticipated to be included in the Region's settlement area boundary expansion. Now, she will oversee the process to bring 5,000 acres of land that was removed from the Greenbelt Plan, by the Province in late 2022, to enable development to commence in 2025.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Carlos Salazar

*Economic Development Officer  
Municipality of Clarington*

Carlos Salazar has over 30 years of experience in planning both in Canada and internationally. Prior to joining the Municipality of Clarington as the Manager of Community Planning and Commercial Development, Carlos worked for the cities of Winnipeg and Greater Sudbury. In Clarington, Carlos led the review of the Official Plan and now his focus is on the implementation of the Plan through secondary plans for residential, employment, and commercial areas. He has been a board member of the Congress for New Urbanism-Ontario and member of OPPI Council. Carlos has worked internationally with the Canadian Institute of Public Administration, The Canadian Urban Institute, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Carlos is a recipient of the Governor General - Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal and has been a member of the Urban Land Institute for more than 30 years. University and a Master of Urban and Rural Planning from Technical University of Nova Scotia.



## Michelle Sergi

*Commissioner of Planning and Development Services  
Niagara Region*

Michelle Sergi is the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services at the Niagara Region. She oversees Community and Long Range Planning, Development Planning and Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering. Michelle has more than 25 years of progressive planning experience and has held various positions with all levels of municipal government and the private sector. She has been responsible for a wide variety of planning matters including growth management, development, neighbourhood planning, cultural heritage, urban design and natural heritage. She is a member of Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario, Canadian Institute of Planners and is a Registered Professional Planner. In addition, she has contributed to a variety of provincial working groups related to Provincial Plan review and Conservation Authorities.



## Brian Shifman

*President  
York Region Rapid Transit Corporation*

Brian Shifman is President of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC), a first-in-class organization that leads urban transformation through transportation. In his role, Brian is responsible for leading a diverse team of talented individuals dedicated to improving community life through the next generation of rapid transit in York Region. Brian has more than 20 years of senior management experience in public, private, and not-for-profit sectors including leading the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce as President & CEO, and working with all levels of government to address traffic gridlock and climate change as Executive Director of Smart Commute - North Toronto, Vaughan. Brian has an Executive MBA from the Schulich School of Business and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. His educational background also includes a PR post-graduate from Humber College and an Honours B.A. from Queen's University.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## David Sit

*Director of Community Planning, North York  
City of Toronto*

David Sit is the Director of Community Planning in North York, City of Toronto. Since joining the City in 2015, he has worked in the waterfront area of Scarborough and in the Downtown as a Community Planning Manager. In 2021, he was promoted to the Director role in North York where he has been overseeing a range of development applications, new secondary plans, and ongoing studies. He is a strong advocate of local decision making and public engagement as a means to create better, livable communities. David continues to support and promote the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and uses some of his spare time mentoring new staff and provisional members. He is formerly a graduate of the Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Waterloo.



## Garrett Stevenson

*Interim Director of Planning  
City of Kitchener*

Garrett Stevenson is the Interim Director of Planning at the City of Kitchener, a Registered Professional Planner, and a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners. He has a Bachelor's of Environmental Studies (Honours Planning) from the University of Waterloo. Since joining the Development Review team at the City of Kitchener in 2008, Garrett has been specializing in development review, and has been integral in the development of many high profile projects throughout the City. By 2021, he became the Manager of Development Review. As the Interim Director, Garrett leads and empowers an innovative team of professionals specializing in progressive and equity-based city building. He builds consensus with community, colleagues, and the industry by establishing and building trust through his strong relationships. Garrett thrives when working together to implement a progressive planning portfolio that includes long range planning, cultural and natural heritage planning, collaborative development review and site plan review processes, building on successes through a focus on continuous improvements, and providing leading customer service.



## Alex Teixeira

*Community Planning, Manager and Acting Director  
City of Toronto*

Alex is a Community Planning Manager, and currently the Acting Director for the Midtown and Downtown sections in the City of Toronto's Community Planning group. Alex began his career at a non-profit affordable housing provider in Toronto and as a development review Planner at the Town of Whitby. Since joining the City of Toronto, he has worked on projects in Scarborough, North York, Midtown and Downtown. Alex is a graduate of the MES Planning program at York University and is a Registered Professional Planner and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

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# CHIEF PLANNERS



## Christian Ventresca

*Director of Community Planning  
City of Toronto*

Christian Ventresca is a Community Planning Manager, and currently the Acting Director for Scarborough District, in the City of Toronto's Community Planning group. Since joining the City Planning Division in 2005, Christian has held a number of policy and development review focused positions focused on the City's "inner suburbs" of North York, Etobicoke, York and Scarborough. Whether leading master plans or implementing them through development review, his practice has focused on bringing a practical, resilient and place-based approach to parts of the City transitioning through a second wave of urbanization. A keen strategist and an unapologetic generalist, he's comfortable speaking a range of languages from architecture to infrastructure, learning from all manners of professionals to deliver outcomes at the varied scales of city building. Christian is a graduate of the University of Toronto's Master of Science in Planning program, as well as a Registered Professional Planner and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.



## Krista Walkey

*General Manager, Planning and Building Services/Chief Planner  
City of Guelph*

Krista Walkey is the General Manager, Planning and Building Services/Chief Planner with the City of Guelph. The City of Guelph is a vibrant community of over 145,000 people situated in the heart of southern Ontario. Krista has over 20 years of public and private sector experience in planning and building. Her experience working on both sides of the planning and building counter has allowed her to understand individual wants and the community's needs and arrive at solutions that work for everyone. Krista's user her leadership skills and depth of experience working on multi-disciplinary teams to resolve complex challenges and advance high-profile projects and corporate directives. Krista is a Registered Professional Planner with a Bachelor of Arts (Urban Geography) degree from the University of British Columbia.



## Henrik Zbogor

*Acting Director of Integrated City Planning  
City of Brampton*

Henrik Zbogor was recently appointed as Acting Director, Integrated City Planning at the City of Brampton, leading a diverse team whose portfolio includes policy planning and growth management, housing, heritage, mobility planning, and active transportation. In his previous roles over 20 years with Brampton, in Public Works, Transit, and Planning, Henrik has overseen the City's Transportation Master Plan, the Zum Bus Rapid Transit Plan, and Complete Streets Guidelines. He is a passionate advocate for sustainable mobility and active transportation in creating an equitable, vital, and engaging City. Henrik is a Registered Professional Planner and holds a Masters degree in Planning from the University of Toronto.

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