Meet our Board of Directors

Canada's Ocean Supercluster is guided by a Board of Directors comprised of industry and community leaders who draw on their diverse experiences and background to provide strategic direction to the organization. Responsible for providing strategic oversight to the OSC, the Board of Directors meet at least quarterly and actively participate in strategic planning, project ratification, cluster events, and member engagement.

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Janet (Jan) De Silva

Jan De Silva is an experienced global executive and corporate director with deep expertise in governance, financial services, and international business. She serves as Canada Co-Chair of the Canada–ASEAN Business Council (CABC) and as Canada's Representative to the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), where she chairs the AI & Digital Innovation Working Group. She also acts as a strategic advisor on major inbound investment projects to Canada and supports Canadian businesses accessing opportunities across Asia.

A former President & CEO of the Toronto Region Board of Trade, Jan continues to be actively engaged in energy transition and digital transformation. She founded CABC's Nuclear Energy Working Group to advance capacity building, trade, and economic development across the Canada–ASEAN corridor.

Jan is the Chair of Canada's Ocean Supercluster. She brings more than two decades of international leadership experience, including CEO roles across Asia and senior positions with Sun Life Financial.

The Arctic is Canada's defining ocean opportunity. From new trade corridors to maritime security and resource development, Canada has an opportunity to lead. OSC can help turn Canadian innovation into globally competitive companies, technologies and partnerships.

The Ocean Supercluster is uniquely positioned to convene the right partners, accelerate commercialization and help Canadian companies scale globally. That's the kind of leadership that will define Canada's future in the ocean economy.

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Cara Salci

Cara Salci is President of Saab Canada, with more than a decade of executive leadership experience in Canada's defence and security sector. A recognized leader in defence, security, and innovation, Cara has been named one of *Canadian Defence Review*'s Top Aerospace & Defence Professionals Under 40 and serves on the boards of Canada's Ocean Supercluster and the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada. She previously served on Canada's Defence Industry Advisory Group and holds an Honours BSc in Biomedical Science from the University of Guelph and an MBA from Queen's University and Cornell University.

Canada is an ocean-nation, our oceans can feed our communities, power our homes and businesses and support the sovereign protection of our country. Canada's Ocean Supercluster serves at the nexus of the advancement of the technologies, people and communities that can advance Canada's ocean economy, and it is a privilege to contribute to this mission.



Craig Haney

Craig Haney has played an important role in the Innovation Ecosystem in Canada for the past 20 years. Running and working in startups, large corporations, and the national network of research innovation centres, Craig has collaborated and worked closely with all players in the technology ecosystem. He currently is with AltaML as the Head of Ventures, Craig now takes his considerable experience into investing in AI related companies, focused the service economy, healthcare, and the energy sectors. In 2024, Craig took over as CEO of Jurisage, a portfolio company in the legal tech space, helping law firms leverage generative AI in their practice and took that to a successful acquisition by Clio in June 2026.

The most significant opportunity in oceans combines 2 unique advantages that ocean tech companies possess. First is in data collection and management. The advancements in sensors and cameras have significantly increased both the quality and quantity of available data, and AI companies are looking for that data. Second, and related to the first opportunity, is in dual use. The convergence of defence technologies with traditionally commercial applications has increased the ability for ocean tech companies to get their products into the hands of some of the biggest buyers in the world; military applications throughout NATO. There are so many opportunities for these companies to raise significant capital and grow globally because of the investment and infrastructure that OSC has helped build for almost a decade.



Fred Olayele

Dr. Fred Olayele is a seasoned economist, university professor, development finance executive, and innovation strategy leader with a diverse career focused on global business, finance, public policy, economic development, and academia. He has held academic positions and taught across four Canadian universities. He has served as a visiting professor and guest speaker across universities and academic institutions abroad. He is the Founder and Chairman of ECANY Capital, an investment and advisory firm. In his previous role as Chief Economist with the New York government, he helped position New York as a global model for innovation. Prior to that, he advised two Canadian provincial governments on energy policy, foreign direct investment, and economic development. Earlier in his career, he was a global trade finance specialist with Citibank. He sits on the Academic Advisory Board of the Emerging Markets Institute, Cornell University, and the International Advisory Board of the International Economic Development Council in Washington, DC. He is a Senior Fellow at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University.

The blue economy is no longer just an environmental or economic issue. It's a geopolitical priority and a lever for economic diplomacy and inclusive prosperity. Canada's Arctic presents major opportunities in defence, technology, and climate leadership.

By 2030, the global blue economy will outpace the growth of the broader economy by 20 percent. Canada doesn't need to be everywhere, but it should be all in where Canadian innovation meets global need. Strategically leveraging Canada's global reputation and diplomatic capital as a cornerstone of OSC's international engagement has never been more important.



Louis Beaubien

Louis Beaubien is a Professor in the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University, where he teaches cost management and researches the design of financing and governance models, information system strategy, and technology adoption in organizations. Much of his work is grounded in healthcare and the defense sector, spanning technology assessment, and performance measurement, with publications in journals including *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal* and *Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management*. He holds a PhD from the Ivey Business School at Western University and is a Chartered Professional Accountant.

He has also built companies. In 2018 he co-founded BlueNode, an AI company developing supply chain software, which was acquired in 2023. He is currently a co-founder of ResolveHD. The combination is deliberate: the questions he pursues academically — how organizations govern information, measure what matters, and finance the systems they depend on — are the same ones he has taken to market twice.

I'd put my money on ocean technology and maritime domain awareness — sensing, autonomy, subsea data — rather than on any single resource play.

For example, despite the momentum offshore wind it has limits. The Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator cleared its pre-qualified bidder list in June, the first call for bids is supposed to open before year-end, and "Wind West" is being sold as billions in investment and export revenue. But electrons are a commodity, and the value in that chain accrues to whoever controls transmission and offtake — neither of which Canada controls for an export-oriented Atlantic build. The project economics depend on interties, on someone else's demand curve, and on capital costs that have already killed projects in more mature markets. It's a big opportunity with someone else's hand on the valve.

By contrast, Arctic sovereignty and defence procurement rely on the capabilities the ocean-tech cluster builds: uncrewed platforms, persistent sensing, subsea communications, data fusion. Canada has the world's longest coastline, three oceans, an unusually deep public research base (Bedford Institute, Ocean Frontier, Memorial, DRDC) Ottawa put $5B into the Trade Diversification Corridors Fund and $1B into an Arctic Infrastructure Fund this spring, and the submarine and surveillance files are live. The structural advantage is that this is exportable IP with a domestic anchor customer. A company selling autonomous survey systems isn't capped by the size of the Canadian market the way a fish farm or a wind farm is. That's the difference between a resource opportunity and a compounding one.

The consortium requirement builds the thing that's hardest to buy. Ocean data in Canada is siloed by sector: fisheries, shipping, offshore energy, defence, science. Each of these has its own formats, incentives, and reasons not to share across or between companies and industries. No amount of technology fixes that; it's a coordination problem. Requiring multi-party consortia forces competitors and cross-sector players into the same room with a shared deliverable, and what accumulates over dozens of projects is standards, interfaces, and working relationships. That's institutional capital, and it's not something a venture fund or a research grant can produce.



Niru Somayajula

Niru Somayajula is CEO of Sensor Technology Ltd., a Canadian leader in underwater acoustics, sonar systems, hydrophones, transducers, and advanced sensing technologies serving defense, security, scientific, and commercial marine markets. With nearly two decades of leadership experience, she has guided the company's growth through investment in advanced manufacturing, research and development, and international business development. Niru is passionate about strengthening Canada's ocean technology ecosystem and has served on the Board of Directors of Canada's Ocean Supercluster since 2021.

Canada has a unique opportunity to become the global leader in ocean technology. With the world's longest coastline, a highly skilled workforce, world-class research institutions, and a growing cluster of innovative companies, we are well positioned to develop and export technologies that improve maritime security, enable autonomous operations, support sustainable resource development, and deepen our understanding of the ocean environment. As demand for these technologies continues to grow globally, Canada has an opportunity to create high-value jobs, attract investment, and build a globally competitive blue economy.

What excites me most about the Ocean Supercluster is its ability to bring together industry, academia, government, and entrepreneurs to tackle challenges no single organization could solve alone. The OSC has proven that collaboration accelerates innovation, commercialization, and adoption of new technologies. By connecting great ideas with funding, partnerships, and market opportunities, the OSC is helping Canadian companies scale faster, compete globally, and strengthen Canada's position as a leader in the ocean economy.



Vanessa Newhook

Currently an independent consultant, Ms. Newhook was most recently Vice President, Atlantic Canada responsible for oversight of Chevron Canada's east coast assets, originally joining Chevron Canada in 2012 in the role of Atlantic Canada Commercial Advisor. From 2019-2021, Vanessa was seconded to serve as President of Newfoundland Transshipment Ltd. (the transshipment terminal located at Whiffen Head).

Prior to Chevron, Vanessa spent 18 years working for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in policy development, compliance and accountability, including the role of Assistant Deputy Minister, Royalties and Benefits, Department of Natural Resources.

Ms. Newhook has extensive experience in strategy development; commercial analysis and negotiation; governance; and alignment and decision implementation in complex environments. Vanessa is also a Director on the Stella's Circle Foundation Board and the Ocean Supercluster Board. She previously served on Newfoundland Transshipment Ltd.'s and St. John's Women's Film Festival Boards.

The most significant ocean issue facing Canada from my perspective is the arctic - opening of the northwest passage, potential for shipping, need for defence strategies, harsh environment and associated impact on ocean species.

The opportunity for the Ocean Supercluster to support the connections across technology, sustainability and defence; to identify the intersection of need, opportunity, and gaps for ocean related technology and data. I have seen the OSC not only support early initiatives that grew but also be a catalyst for or a connector of ideas with use-cases; increasing the understanding of both the opportunity and the need to support ocean related initiatives. The OSC is a key voice representing Canada in the global ocean discussion.



David Courtemanche

Holding a bachelor's and a master's degree in science, David Courtemanche initially co-founded three companies and has worked since 1993 across various government departments, institutes, and private organizations in the fields of research, innovation, and natural resource management. Notably, he spent 14 years in various roles at Fisheries and Oceans Canada and has served since 2015 as Executive Director of Merinov, Canada's largest integrated research and innovation center for the fishing and marine products processing sector. Active on numerous consultation committees, R&D policy forums, and boards of directors, he works closely with various provincial and federal government departments as well as First Nations.

Land-based aquaculture and seaweed production are currently greatly underdeveloped in comparison with many other countries' production. Canada offers one the longest shorelines in the world, cheap and in many cases clean energy, excellent water quality, strong engineering capacity and available space to grow this sector rapidly by at least a 10X factor in the short term.

OSC's has the exposure and leverage to facilitate a rapid growth by supporting businesses that are willing to develop and implement technologies that would allow these sectors to develop and contribute to address Canada's food security and production objectives.



Ryan Fan

Ryan has 30 years of experience in capital markets spanning roles from investment banking to the trading room. He has worked for a number of large financial institutions helping corporate clients raise capital and institutional investor clients execute investment strategies. Through his various roles over his career Ryan has extensive experience in both risk taking and client coverage functions.

Without a doubt it is the development of economic opportunities in the Arctic whether that be port development and transport or technology for defence of the Arctic.

The movement of OSC from being a convener of ocean initiatives and an allocator of concessionary government capital to becoming a more focused catalyst for commercialization of specific ocean-focused economic opportunities. I believe we need to narrow our focus to align with Arctic development.



Brian Rogers

Brian Rogers is a retired financial services executive with more than 30 years of experience in the Canadian financial sector, most recently as Chief Risk Officer of Prospera Credit Union. His career spans risk, commercial banking, corporate development, governance, and a brief stint in professional sports. He holds the CFA charter, an MBA, and the ICD.D designation. Brian recently founded Blue Finance Canada, focused on advancing finance solutions that support healthy oceans and resilient coastal communities, and will bring that perspective to the OSC.

Two things brought me here. The oceans have held my attention my whole life, and after 30 years overseeing capital and risk in financial institutions, I wanted to put that experience toward something I care about. Serving on the OSC Board brings those two together. I can add the most value at the meeting point of financial rigour and an appetite for innovation. The OSC is growing Canada's ocean economy while protecting public money and trust. I have spent my career balancing both responsibilities. Protecting that trust without slowing down progress is where I hope to contribute most on this Board.

Canada has the longest coastline in the world, a serious base of ocean science, & a growing group of companies developing technology. The opportunity is to build a globally competitive ocean economy while keeping our oceans healthy. Achieving that requires talent, market access, and capital. I am closest to access to capital - often where promising ocean companies stall. Funding to scale can be difficult to access, despite strong technology and market potential. Bringing public, private, venture, and cooperative capital together capital would help more of these companies grow in Canada and unlock much greater ocean sector potential.



Catherine Blewett

Raised in Inuvik and Yellowknife, NWT, Catherine Blewett is an accomplished Canadian public service leader who has held several senior leadership roles, including Deputy Clerk of the Privy Council and Associate Secretary to the Federal Cabinet, Secretary of the Treasury Board, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Deputy Minister of Economic Development at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, and President of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. She also served as Clerk of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet in Nova Scotia. Canada's oceans have been a focus through her career, from the High Arctic to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, including work with the Ocean Frontier Institute. As the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for Canada on the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, she led Canadian initiatives on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, ghost gear, island states, and ocean science.

I am inspired by Canada's opportunity to lead at a critical moment for ocean globally. As ocean influence grows in key sectors, we must balance advancing the ocean economy with challenges in governance, sovereignty, and climate change impact. As funding structures and mandates change, I can add value to the Board while demonstrating high value outcomes for Canada. I bring a strategic perspective gained through diverse experience in federal portfolios, and a detailed understanding of the federal system. In addition to an economic understanding of the ocean sector, I have deep respect for Indigenous fisheries and experience at the nexus of ocean research and national policy.

Internationally Canada has an opportunity to assert expertise and influence in ocean governance - critical in the current geopolitical context. Canada also has substantive opportunities in marine transportation, offshore energy and sustainable seafood.

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Richard Boudreault

Richard is a physicist, engineer, serial technology entrepreneur, corporate director and veteran with more than 40 years of experience in oceanography, climate science, advanced technologies and innovation governance. Trained in ocean sciences and ice-covered ocean systems, he has founded or led numerous technology ventures, contributed to more than 20 patent families and helped create thousands of skilled jobs through companies later acquired by organizations like GE, Microsoft, Textron, MDA, Essilor, and Amazon. He has served on more than 30 corporate, academic, Indigenous, and public-sector boards, including federal Governor-in-Council appointments, and currently supports several research and innovation organizations. An adjunct professor at Polytechnique Montréal and the University of Waterloo, he is also President-Elect of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society of Canada. He brings experience in scaling technology ventures, building complex partnerships, advancing Indigenous participation, and supporting sustainable development in the Arctic and marine economy.

I was inspired to join the OSC Board by the opportunity to help strengthen Canada's leadership in ocean innovation and economic development, particularly in the Arctic and coastal regions. I bring experience in scaling technology ventures, building partnerships across industry, government, academia, and Indigenous communities, and applying emerging technologies to real-world ocean challenges. My background in governance, innovation, and investment also supports practical, long-term decision-making.

Canada's greatest ocean opportunity is to become a global leader in sustainable, technology-enabled development of its Arctic and three-ocean economy. With world-class strengths in ocean science, engineering, AI, robotics, remote sensing, and clean tech, Canada can develop solutions for maritime security, climate monitoring, sustainable fisheries, and low-carbon marine industries. By combining innovation with Indigenous knowledge and leadership, Canada can build a competitive ocean economy that strengthens sovereignty, creates high-value jobs, and protects marine ecosystem.

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Sarah Patton

Sarah Patton is a marine scientist, entrepreneur, and systems strategist with over 25 years of experience across academia, government, nonprofit, and private sector roles in ocean science, conservation research and policy, and cross-sector program leadership in Canada and internationally. She is the Founder & CEO of BluSpace, a company focused on mobilizing capital into scalable innovations that support ocean and climate health. Sarah has a master's degree in marine Conservation Biology from James Cook University, and an MBA from Cornell, bringing a blend of scientific expertise, governance experience, and business leadership.

Research and policy are critical, but they move slowly; Canada already has strong, innovative solutions ready to deploy, grow, and scale, but they need support. Being part of a catalytic system, helping move innovation from promise to impact at the pace and scale needed now is what draws me to OSC. My career has focused on translating ocean science into practical solutions that create value for science, industry, government, and communities. So I bring value as a convenor and collaborator: assessing the commercial potential of ventures, connecting science with business, and helping promising ideas secure the support they need. I also bring experience working with Indigenous communities in Canada and internationally; a partnership-based approach I see as core to achieving Canada's ocean ambitions.

We have the world's longest coastline, three oceans, and a vast ocean territory - yet our ocean economy is just below 2% of national GDP. That gap points to substantial unrealized potential. Canada has strong academic and private-sector innovation, the challenge - and the opportunity- is helping those solutions scale, commercialize, and reach global markets. But the opportunity isn't only economic. Canada can grow this sector while becoming a global leader in mindful innovation - protecting and sustaining our ocean resources for future generations and building genuine climate and ecosystem resilience. Economic growth and ocean health aren't competing goals; they reinforce each other. As climate change accelerates and geopolitics shift, building this capacity strengthens Canada's long-term sovereignty, particularly in the Arctic, where research, infrastructure, technology, and sustained presence increasingly matter. Realizing this opportunity well means anchoring our growth in genuine Indigenous collaboration and Indigenous-led ventures.

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Troy MacDonald

Troy is an advisory partner with Doane Grant Thornton LLP based in Toronto, Ontario, specializing in transactions and corporate finance. He has worked across a number of sectors, with a particular focus on energy, infrastructure, financial services and consumer products. Troy is also very active advising indigenous clients on transactions and financing matters. He has held a number of leadership and governance positions with his firm. He is originally from Atlantic Canada and spends significant time there with his family.

I was inspired to join the OSC board because I want to support and contribute to my community. I believe OSC is making a meaningful impact on our country by supporting innovation in the ocean sector, which is strategically important to Canada and a source of competitive advantage for our country.

I believe the most significant ocean opportunity for Canada relates to food sustainability, energy and defense. New ideas that help us leverage Canada's oceans as a sustainable natural resource to meet global needs in food and energy or learn to better defend our country help protect Canada and position it for the future.

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Yvonne Rumbolt-Jones

Yvonne Rumbolt-Jones is a former Member of Parliament for Labrador and a long-serving public leader with more than 30 years of experience across all levels of government. Her career has included senior leadership and parliamentary roles in natural resources, national defence, northern affairs, Indigenous relations and intergovernmental affairs, along with extensive work in Arctic and northern policy, responsible resource development and Indigenous economic participation. A writer, advisor and experienced board member, she brings a distinctly Labrador and northern perspective to national conversations on economic development, innovation and community partnership. She is the author of *Just Around the Corner* and has completed graduate studies in Arctic and Subarctic Studies at Memorial University, where her research focuses on the Canadian Rangers and the future of Arctic and northern defence and sovereignty.

I was inspired to join the Ocean Supercluster Board because Canada has an opportunity and a responsibility to shape the future of the global ocean economy. Our oceans are central to food and economic security, climate resilience, energy, transportation, biodiversity, and sovereignty, particularly in the North, where oceans sustain communities, cultures and livelihoods. I bring a northern and Indigenous perspective, along with extensive experience in public policy, natural resources, Arctic affairs, and economic development. I can help strengthen partnerships among Indigenous communities, industry, governments, and researchers to ensure Canada's ocean economy is competitive, sustainable, and delivers lasting benefits for communities across the country.

Canada's greatest ocean opportunity is to become a global leader in the ocean economy. With three coastlines and a vast Arctic marine environment, Canada is well positioned to lead in areas such as fisheries, clean energy, marine transport, ocean tech, responsible resource development, and climate science. Beyond environmental benefits, these opportunities can strengthen economic security through resilient supply chains, globally competitive technologies, and high-quality jobs. In the North, where climate change and geopolitical pressures are reshaping the marine landscape, innovation must be paired with stewardship and Indigenous leadership. By aligning economic growth and ocean health, Canada can define the future of the global ocean economy while advancing prosperity, sovereignty, and sustainability.