Instructor Biographies

Mireille Allain, with more than 25 years of experience in a policing environment, has an extensive understanding of alternate dispute resolution, human resources, and coaching. She is a Chartered Mediator (C.Med), a Certified Executive Coach (C.E.C.), and is trained in emotional intelligence and personality profiling. Mireille places a high value on listening and continuous learning and believes that this contributes to a healthy workplace culture. She provides a practical hands-on approach to learning and is an engaging and dynamic facilitator whose passion for learning is contagious. Mireille loves the fact that education is collaborative, and she is always learning from her clients and the participants in her workshops.

Amanda Avery, CPA, CA is the Senior Manager of Assurance and Audit for HBA Chartered Professional Accountants. Amanda has been concentrating on audit and assurance for almost ten years, focusing on a variety of Not-For-Profit, Public Sector and First Nations clients. She is equally comfortable giving business advice to small and mid-sized owner-managed organizations as well as large government entities. Amanda has experience in Risk Management, Internal Controls and Fraud Assessments. Prior to her audit focus, Amanda held various accounting roles in real estate and manufacturing companies. Amanda is the Treasurer of the Better Business Bureau of Halifax.

Karine Benzacar, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, CPA (Del), CFA is Managing Director of Knowledge Plus Corp., an organization which specializes both in business training and in providing financial, accounting and management information services. As a professional accountant, certified both in Canada and in the U.S., Karine's practice has involved organizations across North America. Karine has also taught Masters courses at several leading universities and has published numerous articles in leading industry publications.

Bobby Boutilier, CPA, CA is Vice President of Tax for Armco Capital Group of Companies and is responsible for implementing and executing tax planning and compliance for a diverse group of privately held companies. Prior to joining Armco, Bobby was Director of Tax Reporting and Compliance for a national grocery retailer. He also spent five years in the tax group of a national accounting firm, providing personal and corporate tax services to clients ranging from owner managed companies to large public corporations. Bobby has presented numerous tax topics for CPA Nova Scotia and other groups.

Jim Brosseau About 20 years ago, Jim was struggling to reconcile how he believed projects could be run without the stress of delivering on arbitrary deadlines that had little meaning, working in conflict with groups that he was supposed to coordinate with and listening to so many disparate voices when they should have all been pulling in the same direction. In trying to find a better way, Jim founded Clarrus in 2002 to follow his vision of teaching people a more collaborative and inclusive way to work together that nourished better and more productive results. In 2018, Clarrus acquired E.M. Sciences, a pioneer in the field of team soft skills development and continue to run these materials created by Gary Robinson and honour his philosophies.

Mike Brown, CPA, CA is one of the co-founders of Bright Line CPA, a virtual, boutique accounting firm focusing on providing tax and business advisory services to clients. Before founding Bright Line CPA, he worked in domestic tax planning for owner-managers with a focus on business sales and acquisitions, corporate restructurings and reorganizations, and financial advisory services. Mike has completed CPA Canada's In-Depth Tax Program and has presented and written extensively on the topic of taxation of cryptocurrency.

David Cameron, CPA, CA, TEP is a Tax Partner with Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. He has more than 23 years of experience in public accounting, including more than 18 years as a full-time tax practitioner. David worked in industry for three years, primarily in a lead role as Director of Taxation for a large privately held corporate group focused on real estate development and investments. He has a broad range of experience managing Canadian corporate, personal, and trust taxation compliance and planning requirements for both privately held and publicly traded companies.

Marc Charbonneau is an entrepreneurial business consultant with over 20 years of leadership experience, specializing in strategic planning, business development, and project management. He is a graduate from the Royal Military College of Canada with a Bachelor of Computer Engineering. Marc served in the Royal Canadian Navy as a Naval Combat Systems Engineering Officer. Upon retirement from the RCN, Marc transitioned to the private sector. He has held progressive leadership positions at Lockheed Martin Canada, Bluedrop Training & Simulation, Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems, Irving Shipbuilding and the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security. Marc recognizes the importance of supporting and serving those we lead. He believes people are our best assets, and organizations thrive and succeed when our teams are engaged with an inspiring purpose, are guided by values-based leadership, and are supported with processes and tools to get the job done. Marc is an engaging presenter who likes to weave pertinent examples pulled from his personal and professional experiences, and he encourages meaningful exchanges amongst participants to further reinforce the lesson at hand.

Tanya Chapman founded The Chapman Group to help individuals, teams and organizations transform to perform. Her boutique consulting company tailors custom solutions for each client, aligning strategic human resources practices with the overall organizational goals and vision. Along with being an entrepreneur, Tanya has worked as an oil and gas executive and a university lecturer. An insightful and inspiring facilitator, she helps individuals and teams find focus and clarity to achieve their professional and personal goals. Tanya holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Education degree from St. Thomas University. She has a certificate in Human Resource Management and an MBA from the University of New Brunswick. She is a designated Certified Human Resource Professional and has completed the ICD Directors Education Program at the Rotman School of Business.

Boyd Chislett, CPA, CA, CBV is an independent business valuator and accountant. Boyd obtained his designation in the NWT and worked overseas with Deloitte & Touche for several years. He returned to Newfoundland and Labrador in 2000 and worked with Ernst & Young while obtaining his CBV specialization. Since 2005, Boyd has been working as a sole practitioner providing professional business valuation advice and independent reports for a variety of small and medium sized businesses throughout the province and across Canada.

Blair Cook CPA, CA, CPA (Ill), MBA is a many-time corporate director, CFO, author, speaker, educator, innovator, and thought leader for the Office of the CFO. He is currently the CFO at Mara Renewables Corporation, a biotechnology company and is a corporate director of Terravest Industries and Clarke Inc., both of which have substantial operations in Alberta in the oil & gas equipment supply and hospitality sectors. He is the author of The Illiterate Executive: An Executive's Handbook for Mastering Financial Acumen.

Denise Coombs, CPA, CA, CFP is a tax partner with Noseworthy Chapman Chartered Professional Accountants and has over 26 years' experience in the development and implementation of all aspects of corporate and shareholder tax and estate planning. Denise has authored several articles and has facilitated numerous programs including those for the CICA and the Canadian Tax Foundation. She is also a Certified Financial Planner. Denise has also completed specialized tax courses including In-Depth Tax, Corporate Reorganizations, Wealth Preservation and Advance Tax Issues for the Owner-Managed Business. She has also completed CPA Canada's In-depth GST/HST course.

Judy Cumby, MBA, FCPA, FCA is an associate professor with the Faculty of Business Administration, Memorial University where she has taught since 1988. Her research and teaching interests are focused on International Financial Reporting Standards. Judy has taught professional development courses for the Institutes of Chartered Accountants of Newfoundland and Bermuda, the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and CPA Newfoundland and Labrador. She has previously developed and taught seminars for ASCA, and has been involved in accounting education matters at national and international levels.

Somya Das, CPA completed her CA from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and her CPA in Nova Scotia in 2021. Somya is a financial accounting professional with expertise delivering audit, financial planning, reporting and analytical services to fortune 500 corporations. She has an extensive background in auditing procedures, accounting principles, financial reporting, and general ledger accounting.

Dan Doerksen is a communicator, leader, strategist, and perpetual learner who focuses his curiosity and energy towards helping individuals and organizations thrive. He has a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership and 15 years of leadership experience coaching and investing in people from a diverse range of backgrounds. Dan is passionate about helping organizations realize their vision and discover what it means to create workplaces where people like to work. His skillset and experience include working in the areas of organizational structure, effective communication, growth strategies, evaluation and assessment, leading change, and empowering the younger generation of workers. Dan believes that continuous growth and learning are essential components for both individual and organizational success. Clients appreciate him for his fun, warm, and engaging presence, along with the strategic and analytical mind that he brings to his work.

Pauline Downer, MBA, FCPA, FCA is a tax consulting practitioner and an associate professor in tax, accounting, entrepreneurship and small business at the Faculty of Business Administration, Memorial University. Pauline received Memorial University's President's Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2003. She has been a seminar leader for tax courses for CPA Newfoundland and Labrador since 1987.

Steve Foran, MBA founded Gratitude at Work in 2006, a science-based program with a simple yet innovative approach to thriving leadership and business growth. Starting with conversations in his community, Steve's work expanded to include leaders around the world, shifting cultures, helping them and their teams be happier at work by bringing more gratitude to their work each day. While not the typical career path of an electrical engineer, Steve began exploring the relationship between gratitude and philanthropic giving during his MBA. In 2019, he wrote Surviving to Thriving - The 10 Laws of Grateful Leadership and was an inaugural winner of Canada's CEO Trusted Advisor Awards Program. In 2017, he was awarded the gold standard certification in professional speaking.

Stephen Franklin has taught and coached professional and personal development for more 30 years, currently in his own practice with his own training programs. Previously, he worked for several years with the Atlantica Learning Corp and in partnership with Day-Timers of Canada. His courses are based on extensive research and methodical testing to ensure that the information, skills, processes, and techniques he presents are real solutions that produce real results. In his various roles as a public speaker, Stephen has spoken across Canada as well as in the United States and Australia. His experience includes extensive personal coaching, helping clients develop personal motivation for professional skills development, facilitating them through the necessary behaviour changes to make it happen. His training approach includes a strong focus on the practical rather than theoretical, behavioural change, and interactive, dynamic sessions.

Laura Friedrich, MSc, CIA, FCPA, FCGA is a principal of Friedrich & Friedrich Corp., a research, standards, and education consultancy firm that has shaped her work experience for over 25 years. The firm helps build institutional capacity and develops strategic, policy, program, governance, and ethics guidance for established and emerging professional and regulatory organizations. Laura has served as an author, lecturer, and examiner for numerous post-secondary and professional programs in Canada and internationally. She has led hundreds of professional development sessions across a wide range of topics including governance, leadership, ethics, technology, education, and professional standards. She currently chairs the CPA BC Bylaws Committee and is a Technical Advisor to the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants.

Maureen R Gillis, CPA, CA facilitates adult learning on topics related to ethics, leadership, human resources, success, and human behaviour. Her teaching and facilitation work began early in her career. She has taught for various universities and facilitated professional development courses for members of professional organizations. With formal training in adult learning, experience in human resources management, a designation as a Chartered Professional Accountant, and professional experience across sectors, Maureen offers multi-disciplinary and practical perspectives to her interactive workshops. Her professional volunteer experience has included the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Public Sector Accounting Board, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia, the Financial Management Institute, and the Chamber of Commerce, among others.

Mike Haley, M.Sc., is President of Landmark Decisions Inc., a Canadian consulting firm providing worldwide “Performance Alignment” facilitation, training, and implementation services. Mike has over 25 years’ experience in developing and delivering business management frameworks and methodologies that enhance strategic and operational planning and cost modeling. The focus for these techniques has been to help both private and public-sector organizations increase their awareness of the impact business processes have on costing and budgeting while improving their overall decision-making capacity. A frequent speaker/lecturer on topics of operational modeling, costing and performance reporting, Mike also serves on the Board of the Nova Scotia Chapter of the Financial Management Institute of Canada (FMI.ca), a Canadian not-for-profit volunteer association focused on knowledge sharing in all aspects of public sector financial management.

Morgan Hamel is President of MH Partners Inc., a boutique consulting firm dedicated to helping firms navigate moral nuance to build long-term stakeholder value. Having earned a Master’s in Applied Ethics from Utrecht University in 2010, worked in the ethics office of a large corporation for 11 years, and built a successful ESG-centric fashion marketing company, Morgan brings together the academic, corporate, and entrepreneurial elements of ethics and business in a unique and accessible way.

Kate Harris, QC, TEP is a co-managing partner of Patterson Law. She has more than 30 years of experience assisting her owner-manager clients achieve their goals in the areas of business structuring, tax minimization, trusts and estate planning, and succession planning. Kate was a part-time professor at Dalhousie Law School for over 20 years and is often asked to present to such groups as the Canadian Tax Foundation, the Canadian Bar Association, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and CPA Nova Scotia. Kate is often consulted by other professional advisors to assist with tax planning and corporate restructuring for their clients. Kate was selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in Canada since 2018 in the fields of Corporate Law, Tax Law and Trusts and Estates. She was recognized by Best Lawyers in Canada as the 2019 Tax Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Halifax, and as the 2022 Corporate Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Halifax. Kate is recognized by Chambers Canada as a leading lawyer in Corporate/Commercial law, receiving the highest ranking for Atlantic Canada since 2019.

Tyler Hayden CSP, BRM (OEE) Since 1996, Tyler continues to be a sought after internationally respected team building designer, best-selling author, and business speaker. He delivers a powerful punch that inspires teams, innovates management techniques, and invigorates team engagement. When it comes to empowering audiences and teams to succeed—and to be their best every day—Tyler leads the way with insight and laughter. His team building workshops and motivational keynote speeches receive rave reviews from managers and business leaders alike.
He is the author of over twenty-five books and the creative mind behind hundreds of powerful and fun team-building products. Tyler is a thought leader who works internationally with Fortune 500, Inc. 5000, and Premier Associations to level-up their learning design.

Shawn Ireland, Ph.D., is a founding partner and managing director of HRCgroup, Inc. He works extensively with Fortune 500 companies, foreign governments, and international aid agencies. His expertise includes fostering critical thinking, strategic change, virtual teamwork, and managing human behaviour. He's Program Director and Core Faculty member of the Master of Arts in Industrial and Organizational Psychology programs at Adler University in Vancouver.

Judy Johnson has worked for 35 years as a facilitator and coaching consultant in experiential learning, leadership development and organizational effectiveness. She works with government, private and community-based organizations internationally and locally. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work and a Masters of Adult Education. Judy is adept in process facilitation, team development, principled negotiation, conflict resolution, experiential education design and delivery, needs assessment and program evaluation. She uses a balance of reflective, creative, and interactive activities to assist individuals and groups to use their natural wisdom, talents, and inner power to create and sustain constructive forward momentum in their organizations.

Jennifer Kelly is a facilitator and instructional designer with over 12 years' experience designing and delivering in-class and online training workshops. She holds a Master of Arts in Applied Communication and a Bachelor of Post-Secondary Education. Jennifer has designed and facilitated courses in core areas such as workplace psychological safety, interpersonal communication, and conflict resolution. As a certified Positive Psychology Coach, she has trained in the study of workplace wellness and personal well-being. Jennifer is passionate about creating psychological safety in the workplace and believes it is what truly leads to high-performing and motivated teams. She is an energetic and thoughtful presenter who is committed to providing learning experiences that are fun, engaging, and easily applicable.

Michael Kennedy, BSc, CAE, MEd facilitates numerous seminars on leadership, communication and change to a wide audience throughout Canada. He presents several such seminars through the SMU Executive Professional Development program. A retired Lieutenant-Colonel in the CAF, he served in numerous leadership positions working with military and civilian staff. He continues to apply his skills as the President of his Condominium Board and Education Chair for the Canadian Condominium Institute Atlantic Chapter. Michael has extensive experience in navigating many large change initiatives and challenging environments.

Richa Khanna, CPA, CA is an independent consultant who provides services to small and medium sized practitioners, assisting in ensuring compliance with their quality control objectives through monitoring services and efficiency reviews. She also consults on areas of accounting and assurance, risk management and ethical considerations and quality control matters. Richa develops and delivers training for public accounting firms on topics related to assurance and Canadian ASPE. She is currently the Chair, Small and Medium-Sized Practitioners Committee at CPA Canada (Audit and Assurance Taskforce) and volunteers as a member of the Disciplinary Committee at CPA Ontario. Richa was formerly the partner in-charge of Professional Standards at a mid-sized firm in the GTA, with an international affiliation. In this role, she advised the partnership and professional staff on accounting and assurance matters. She was instrumental in designing and overseeing the firm's quality control program, ensuring compliance and continuous improvement. She coordinated the firm's practice inspection and peer reviews (cyclical monitoring) and was the leader for the firm's professional development program aimed at new hires, staff, and partners. She was also a part-time practice inspector with the CPA Ontario.

Jacqueline King, CPA, CMA is currently a Learning & Development consultant, whose over 20-year career has spanned multiple industries, in Canada and abroad. Success in her accounting career came from the ability to form great relationships and help people from all levels of the organization to understand the numbers and their impact. Her desire to focus more specifically on this realm – in particular, helping accounting professionals and finance teams to develop the communication skills needed to reach beyond the numbers, and realize their full potential – is what led her to start her learning and development company, Everleap.

Kristina King, CPA, CA has worked with KPMG in both Calgary and Australia before returning to Halifax in 2012 where she was a Senior Manager with KPMG's audit practice. During her time in public accounting, her primary client base centered around the investment industry and not for profit sector. Kristina currently works for the Province of Nova Scotia as a Director of Finance supporting the Department of Health and Wellness. Kristina is also on the Finance Committee of the St. John Ambulance of Nova Scotia and is a marker for the CFE as well as for the PEP program.

Samuel Kiragu achieved his Kenyan CPA designation he then started his accounting career with KPMG East Africa before joining KPMG in the Cayman Islands where he was engaged on hedge funds audits. In Canada, he worked for Mitsubishi Funds Services in Halifax before joining the interesting world of academic and corporate executive training. He is the coordinator of financial services programs at Nova Scotia Community College (Ivany Campus) where he teaches financial services related courses. Sam is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist and a Certified Global Sanctions Specialist. He has facilitated Anti-Money Laundering, Sanctions and tax regulations trainings in Canada, Cayman Islands, and Kenya. Sam has also delivered anti-money laundering and CFT training to law enforcement agencies, the Canada Revenue Agency and CPA provincial bodies. He is a consultant with a national accounting firm where he is involved with financial crime and Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI)-Common Reporting Standards and FATCA related engagements.

Sara Kuehner, CPA, CA, CPA (Illinois) is a sole practitioner in the Halifax area. Her practice focuses on financial statement reporting services including compilation and review engagements under the ASPE framework, along with the tax and advisory services that flow from these engagements. Her clients consist mainly of small and mid-size owner-managed businesses. Sara is a member of the Private Enterprise Advisory Committee, which assists the Accounting Standards Board of Canada in standard setting activities and is the chair of the Registration Committee for CPA Nova Scotia.

Michelle Lane, CPCC is a leadership effectiveness coach, educator, and advisor. Michelle works with established, evolving, and emerging professionals who want to be more effective leaders. She helps her clients discover and develop the clarity, competence, and confidence they need to be more effective; build their capacity for more strategic and complex leadership; and create the conditions for success in the organizations in which they lead. With a background in communications and post-secondary education, and 40 years of organizational leadership and consulting experience in the pubic, private, and not-for-profit sectors, Michelle now runs Vibrant Leaders, the leadership effectiveness consultancy she founded in 2015.

Dr. Richard LeBlanc brings to business and professional clients a depth of information from his extensive research and work with boards of directors and training and development of leaders and managers. He is engaging, dynamic, personable and an award-winning educator, lawyer, consultant, and author. Because of his work with leading companies and current research, Richard is always on the cutting edge of emerging global developments. His insight has guided leaders of organizations through his teaching, writing and direct consultation to government regulators and corporations.

Greg Leslie, CPA, CA, TEP is a Tax Partner at Baker Tilly Nova Scotia. He is involved with succession and estate planning, corporate reorganizations, tax compliance, and the charities and not-for-profit sector. He is a current member of Family Business Atlantic and past president of the Halifax Estate Planning Council. He is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and currently sits on the Board of STEP Atlantic. He is a frequent lecturer for CPA Nova Scotia and CPA Canada and has presented on income tax matters to a variety of local and regional business organizations.

Earl MacLeod, CPA, CA is a Partner with MNP LLP in Dartmouth and is the Regional Tax Leader for MNP in the Atlantic Provinces. He has experience with a wide variety of clients dealing in business advisory and tax services including corporate reorganizations, estate and succession planning, international taxation, and personal, corporate and trust tax planning. Earl has authored numerous articles for business publications and has been involved as a speaker/presenter for CPA Nova Scotia PD courses, the Atlantic Provinces Tax Conference, STEP Atlantic, and other various organizations.

Tinaye Manyimo is the owner of Shumba Consulting, based in Halifax, Nova Scotia whose mission, with a core lens of diversity and inclusion, is to work with businesses, organizations, and groups to develop and deliver engaging and impactful workplace education and management solutions. He believes that in our communities and today's workplace continuous education, training and policies that focus on diversity and inclusion awareness are essential for courageous organizations. His journey as a Diversity and Inclusion practitioner has been facilitated through successful past occupations in student/human rights advocacy, retail, finance, government, and post-secondary education. He is an External Human Rights trainer for the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission and has a Canadian Certified Inclusion Professional designation through the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion.

Ruth March, CPA, CA is a Director of Estate Planning with KPMG in Halifax. In this role, Ruth is responsible for tax planning for a diverse clientele, with a particular focus on owner-managed businesses, estates, and trusts. Ruth is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, the Canadian Tax Foundation, and the Halifax Estate Planning Council. She has been a long-time leader for CPA Canada tax courses, a lecturer for the Canadian Tax Foundation's Tax Planning for the Owner Manager and Estate Planning Course and has taught several tax courses for CPA Nova Scotia. She has also presented at STEP national conferences and branch seminars, CTF Atlantic Provinces Tax Conferences, and for various business and community groups. Ruth is a past governor of the Canadian Tax Foundation, a past chair of STEP Canada, a past chair of the STEP Atlantic branch, and has served as treasurer of Symphony Nova Scotia and the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia.

Paul Mascarenhas is President and founder of Avancer Learning Inc. He is a specialist in strategic communication initiatives and an experienced facilitator in IT and communication skills. He has facilitated workshops for leading corporations, professional institutions, and government bodies, in Canada and internationally. Beginning his career in roles of Marketing and Economic Research, Business planning, and Communications, he built his career around data-driven advertising and marketing strategy. His fascination for spreadsheets led him to develop routines for bringing objectivity into business decision making and fine-tune a flair for spotting trends in data and their impact on business strategy. He brings his twin specialisations of Communications and Strategic Analysis, to training, and has developed & conducted workshops for some of the world's leading organizations over the last 10 years.

Arun Mathur, FCPA, FCA is Partner at Gerald Duthie & Co. LLP, where he provides professional services to a diverse group of clients. Arun is also owner and lead instructor at UltimQuest Knowledge Inc., offering corporate training on improving governance, ethics, internal control, performance measurement and related topics. Arun served for several years on the Board for HealthForce Ontario Marketing and Recruitment Agency and was also Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee there and for the Trillium Gift of Life Network.

Keith Martin, CPA, CA spent 10 years in public accounting, eventually specializing in business reviews for lenders and investors. Until 2010, Keith was CFO of a growing construction company which grew from $25M to over $100M. His current practice focus includes developing systems and providing strategic advice for growing companies. Keith has developed PD courses for a variety of associations and is a former instructor at Wilfrid Laurier University. Keith has led PD sessions in Ontario and British Columbia for over 10 years.

Derrick McEachern, M.Ed., RCT CCC is a Registered Counselling Therapist in Nova Scotia and a Canadian Certified Counsellor. Derrick provides clinical counselling supervision to counsellors in training and is an Approved Candidacy Supervisor for the Nova Scotia College of Counselling Therapists. In his practice, he specializes in providing therapeutic counselling in the areas of anxiety, depression, trauma, couple and family therapy, grief and loss, and career and life transitions. Derrick is the founder and owner of Five Star Wellbeing Counselling and Mental Health, offering individual and couples counselling, career coaching and wellbeing and mental health seminars. Derrick has developed a wellbeing assessment tool that fosters a preventative approach to mental health and the broader aspects of overall wellbeing. Derrick has led workshops for mental health and career service professionals at The Canadian Counselling Association National Conference, and Canada's National Career Development Conference.

Allan Melvin, CPA, CA has previously worked nationally and internationally before returning to his work his family farm in Nova Scotia. He also works at Bishop and Company Chartered Professional Accountants where he provides accounting and advisory services with a focus on agriculture-based clients. Allan is the current first Vice President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, is an active board member with the Kings County Federation of Agriculture, where he is also the Past President and is also a board member on the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council. Allan has also earned a certificate from Texas A&M for his participation in The Executive Program for Agricultural Producers.

Lindsay Miller is the Awareness Coordinator for the Education and Awareness Team for Canadian Mental Health Association Nova Scotia Division. Lindsay works to reduce stigma through education, increase public awareness and utilization of available mental health resources, and promote the impacts of Social Determinants of Health and Socio-Economic Status on mental health. Lindsay believes that community support is often underestimated as a valuable mental health resource and is driven to contribute to strengthening those systems through accessible mental health education, increasing awareness of free and low-cost resources, and advocating for easier access to the formal mental health system when it is needed.

Gerard Murphy is the owner and President of Barefoot Facilitation Inc., based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Gerard has a 30-year track record of excellence as a facilitator, educator, and speaker. His passion is helping people to engage in conversations that are impactful and influence individual, team, and organizational performance. Gerard has worked nationally, provincially, and regionally to provide facilitation, training, and consulting services to clients within the voluntary, public, and private sectors. With a commitment to lifelong learning, he has certifications in public participation, community-based development, leadership development and primary health care collaboration. Gerard is a certified Personality Dimensions® Qualified Facilitator and is a member of the International Association of Facilitators.

Richard Niedermayer, QC, TEP is a partner in the Halifax office of Stewart McKelvey. His practice involves all aspects of tax and estate planning, estate and trust administration, and corporate law. Richard is a Past Chair of the Canadian Bar Association's Nova Scotia and National Wills, Estates and Trusts Sections, a Past Chair of the Atlantic Canada Branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and currently serves on STEP Canada's Board of Directors as Deputy Chair. He is also a member of the Canadian Tax Foundation and the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, and a former President of the Halifax Estate Planning Council. Richard is listed by Best Lawyers for Trusts and Estates and Corporate Law, by Lexpert for Estate and Personal Tax Planning/Estate Litigation, and by Who's Who Legal Canada for Private Client. He holds a BV Distinguished peer reviewed rating from Martindale Hubbell and the TEP designation from STEP. Richard is a frequent writer and speaker on estate, tax, and business succession topics.

John Oakey, CPA, CA, TEP, CC became the National Tax Director for Baker Tilly Canada in 2019 following many years as a Tax Partner in Baker Tilly Nova Scotia. In 2011, he started up the Atlantic Region US Tax Group focusing on US Citizen and US/Canada cross border tax issues. John has extensive education having completed all three CPA Canada In-Depth Tax courses and the Advanced Tax Issues for the Owner-Managed Business. He has widespread knowledge and expertise in corporate and personal income taxes specializing in corporate reorganizations, estate planning, succession planning and tax compliance. He also has significant experience dealing with US Citizen cross border tax reporting issues and Harmonized Sales Tax.

Jamie O'Neil, CPA, CA is a partner in the audit practice at KPMG LLP in Halifax with over 23 years of experience in public accounting. Jamie is an active volunteer, serving as the Treasurer and a Member of the Board of Trustees for the QEII Health Sciences Centre Foundation and on the Board of Directors for CPA Nova Scotia.

Jamie O'Neill served as Partner with Bluteau DeVenney for 10 years before starting Uprise Consulting. In the early years, Jamie worked as a private consultant, helping new businesses kick start their operations and put them on the path to success. Jamie's strength is her ability to connect with the audience in a fun and motivating way. She thrives on providing innovative and creative insights with the steps you need to reach your goals. Jamie is committed to building strong relationships and she is passionate about helping her community.

Scott Orth is a mindfulness coach and trainer, who gives CPAs the tools they need to delete the overwhelm, focus on what matters most and create the life they want. He helps them understand and better manage their reactive brain, training them to be more focused, resilient, and happier - even when stressed. Scott has delivered webinars, PD training and keynote presentations to many of the CPA associations across the country and his presentations are always highly engaging, practical, and highly rated. He uses these tools every day in his own life and brings a practical, no-nonsense approach to it all.

Eileen Pease, M.Ed., CHRP, is a Certified Speaking Professional and works with people to develop their ability to enhance their full brain power at work so they can be fully engaged, measurably more productive, and happier. As an expert on the brain at work, Eileen helps people learn faster, remember longer, turn stress into opportunity, improve their relationships, and keep their brains in top condition. Her book - Get More Power from Your Brain — shows readers how to tune-up their most powerful asset.

Andrew Plant, CPA, CA, TEP is a Senior Tax Manager at Grant Thornton LLP and has over a decade of experience with Canadian corporate and personal income taxes with specialization in the areas of corporate reorganizations, estate planning, succession planning and tax compliance. He has completed CPA Canada's in-depth tax program and in 2020 became a facilitator for the program. Andrew is a part-time faculty instructor at Saint Mary's University. He has written multiple papers about Canadian income tax and has presented at the Canadian Tax Foundation's Atlantic Provinces Tax Conference on income tax matters.

Beth Porter, CPA, CA, CFP is a tax partner with Noseworthy Chapman Chartered Professional Accountants in St. John's and is responsible for the firm's tax practice. Beth has been working full-time in taxation since 2000 and has completed all three levels of the In-depth Tax Program as well as various other advanced taxation courses. Beth also obtained her designation as a Certified Financial Planner in 2006. Her primary areas of practice are personal and corporate taxation, comprehensive tax planning and corporate restructuring.

Stephen Priddle, CPA, CA, CMA worked with KPMG for five years, then moved to industry and has worked for several businesses, including public and private companies. During this time, he has obtained a wide range of financial reporting, treasury management, mergers & acquisitions, and other business experience. He is currently the VP, Finance and Corporate Secretary, as well as a member of the Board of Directors, of SureWx Inc. Stephen has extensive experience in creating and teaching professional development and other courses for provincial CPA bodies, at the University of Toronto and Carleton University, as well as previously in the CMA and CGA programs. He is also a prolific author of published cases.

Elizabeth Richards CPA, CA, MBA is the Associate National Director of Professional Practice for the Baker Tilly Canada Cooperative. She provides support to the member firms by developing and delivering solutions and resources that anticipate the needs of the network, assists with training and implementation of new processes and programs, and facilitates knowledge sharing from coast to coast. She also identifies opportunities for the network and organizes various conferences, knowledge forums and seminars. Prior to her current role she worked in a public practice accounting firm where she gained an invaluable depth and breadth of experience as a financial professional including personal and corporate tax, IT solution implementation, audit, and assurance services, as well as IFRS, ASPE and ASNPO standards.

Tammy Robertson, MA has over 25 years of corporate and entrepreneurial experience working with CPAs across Canada. She believes that our mightiest challenge today, now more then ever, is captured in a simple message, "Keep Your Heart in the Game™!" As a leadership coach, author, and professional speaker she brings a keen understanding to her consulting work with leaders in public practice, non-profit and industry. Her message inspires and challenges you to stay on your path, commit to what you can, decide to make a difference, and have faith.

Glenn Rodgers is the Education and Training Coordinator for Canadian Mental Health Association Nova Scotia Division. Glenn works to develop, adapt, and deliver workshops dealing with mental health issues. In addition to his day-to-day work, he co-facilitates a Men's Peer Support group once a week. With 10+ years in the mental health field, Glenn is very passionate about the work he does and enjoys educating people and raising awareness around the issues and stigmas surrounding mental illness.

Kurt Rosentreter, CPA, CA, CFP, CLU, CIMA, TEP, FMA, CIM For almost twenty-five years, has been committed to helping families manage their finances properly. He is a Senior Financial Advisor at Manulife Securities Incorporated in Toronto. Kurt teaches financial planning courses across Canada and is a media spokesperson on money issues for the National Press. He provides practical and common-sense financial advice in easy-to-understand language, taking the stress out of managing money, while helping Canadians to reach their goals and dreams.

Jeremy Scott, LLB operates a boutique law firm focused on assisting clients with their tax needs. He was a partner at one of the largest Professional Services Firms in Canada and served as the head of tax for Empire Company Limited (Sobeys). For over 19 years, Jeremy has been proactively advising clients with respect to the application of tax and representing them during all stages of tax audits, appeals and objections. Jeremy's practice is focused primarily on indirect tax such as the Federal Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax, and Provincial Sales Tax, Tobacco Taxes, Fuel Taxes, Customs Duties as well as Environmental Stewardship Levies. He has written articles for tax publications and has presented numerous tax conferences, seminars, and professional development workshops on the local and national stage. Jeremy serves on the Board of Directors for Brigadoon Village and Divert Nova Scotia.

Joel Shapiro, Ph.D., has educated 1000's of leaders in his open enrolment programs and has designed and implemented dozens of customized LD & OD programs for notable companies. Joel helped save his third-generation family business in an extreme turnaround situation, transforming the company from a local, non-competitive, commodity supplier into a national, highly competitive, value-added service provider. In three mergers and two acquisitions (all within 18 months), Joel led the post-merger integration, uniting the six cultures into one cohesive team, and realigning them all with the new vision, strategy, values, and market realities.

Joanna Shea has over 19 years of commercial and project negotiations experience in the natural resource, utilities, and infrastructure sectors in North America. During that time, she has led over $2B worth of acquisitions, divestments, and contract negotiations. She has project managed and negotiated agreements linked to over $1B in capital projects in both Canada and the United States and held senior leadership roles in negotiations, project management, resource development and organizational restructuring. Joanna has a BBA from St. Francis Xavier University, holds a Graduate Certificate in Project Leadership from Cornell University and a Graduate Certificate in Negotiations from the Harvard School of Business. She is the Managing Partner and Founder of the Negotiations Collective (NC).

Jeffrey D. Sherman, FCPA, FCA is CEO of Terragram Investments Ltd., CFO of Sun Residential REIT and has over 25 years' experience as a corporate director and executive in real estate, high tech, biotechnology/medical, financial services, and business services. From 2012 to 2017, he was CFO of Atrium Mortgage Investment Corporation (TSX: AI) where he helped take the company public and grow its assets from $180 million to over $600 million.
Jeffrey is a popular presenter, and a frequent course director and course author for many organizations including provincial CPA bodies and has written many magazine articles and over twenty books. Jeffrey has a BComm from Rotman Commerce and an MBA from the Schulich School of Business at York University.

David Strong, CPA, CA has been in public practice for over 25 years. Strong & Associates CPAs is a medium-sized firm based in Bedford, Nova Scotia and provides professional services including compilations, review, and audit engagements, as well as taxation to a range of clients in many different industries.

Dragana Toprek Cooper, CPA, CA is a Partner with Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. specializing in audit and assurance. Dragana has assurance, advisory, and tax experience with clients ranging from small owner managed businesses across a variety of sectors and industries to NPOs and charities. Dragana is involved with Baker Tilly's Onboarding and Talent Development initiatives taking part in internal training development and implementation.

Mara Vizzutti B.Ed, MA is a seasoned facilitator and a certified executive coach with a Master's degree in Organizational Development and Leadership. For over 20 years, she has been facilitating high caliber trainings to audiences of senior executives, supervisors, and front-line employees in diverse industries. Prior to her facilitation career, Mara enjoyed a successful career in sales and management. Mara's areas of expertise include team building, leadership development, transformational coaching, and effective communication systems. Mara works with organizations to improve engagement showing leaders how to communicate effectively and successfully develop their future leaders. Her goal is to transform the process of business communications and to facilitate collaboration and healthy relationships in the workplace.

Bill Wesioly, CPA, CMA is a Risk Management consultant and Leadership coach. His goal is to enrich the effectiveness of people and organizations, doing so with both skill and heart. His background is in the Financial Services industry, first with BMO and then with RBC. He currently teaches on Risk Management with many CPA provincial bodies and consults with a diverse portfolio of private, public, and not for profit organizations. He has recently published a Management Accounting Guideline for CPA Canada entitled "A practical approach to managing risks for small- to medium-sized organizations".

Leah White, CPA, CA, CIA is a Partner in Grant Thornton's Halifax office and is responsible for Risk and Forensic Services in the Atlantic region. She has more than 20 years of experience providing risk and controls advisory services to both public and private companies as well as publicly accountable organizations, internal audit outsourcing/co-sourcing arrangements, risk assessment facilitations, fraud awareness training, internal control certification/SOX assignments, and IT security assessments (including credit card security). A highly regarded member of the North American internal audit community, Leah knows leading edge internal audit practices, and is a recognized thought leader and conference speaker. She has served as President of the Maritime Chapter of Internal Auditors, was the Eastern Canada District Representative on the North American Chapter Relations Committee of the Institute of Internal Auditors ("IIA"), and now serves as the Canadian District Advisor and a member of the Canadian Advisory Council, representing internal audit practitioners across Canada.

Kevin Yuill, CPA, CA is a Tax Partner at BDO LLP in Halifax and leads their tax practice. He has 19 years of experience in public accounting firms, including two of the national firms. He has a broad range of experience managing Canadian corporate, personal, and trust taxation compliance and planning requirements for both privately held and publicly traded companies. In addition to teaching at CPA Nova Scotia, Kevin has taught CPA Canada's In-Depth Tax Course, been involved with the legacy ASCA program, and has lectured at the CTF's Atlantic Tax Conference.