



## MEMBER BIOS

# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council January 2026



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

January 2025 Member Bios



## **Ms. Roz Syednejad** Interim Chair

Roz Seyedneja is a double UBC alumna with a BAsC in Civil Engineering (1998) and an M.Eng. in Structural Engineering (2000), and she also holds an EMBA from SFU (2006). An experienced engineer and business leader, Roz has built a diverse career across engineering, technology, and innovation. She is the Founder and CEO of Stratesol Consulting, specializing in innovation strategy and non-dilutive funding; the Co-Founder and COO of Offerland, a real estate technology platform; and the Chief Corporate Officer of SenseNet, a company advancing early wildfire detection technology across high-risk regions.

Roz began her career in project management and business development with global engineering firms, including AtkinsRéalis, Fluor, and Hatch. She has contributed to several boards and committees, currently serving on the Board of North Shore Family Services, with past roles at the BC Construction Roundtable, West Vancouver Arts Facilities Advisory Committee, Hollyburn Country Club, and Mulgrave School. She remains active in the startup ecosystem through advisory roles and angel investing.

Committed to advancing Canada's innovation landscape, Roz is also deeply engaged in community and industry initiatives. Outside of work, she enjoys skiing, hiking, biking, and golfing with her family.



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

## January 2025 Member Bios



### **Ms. Jennifer L. Vancini** (Temporary on Leave)

Jennifer Vancini is a General Partner of Mighty Capital, a venture capital firm based in Silicon Valley, and the founder and Managing Partner of Pointgrey Partners, a family investment office. Prior to being a full-time investor, she held executive roles in corporate and strategic business development, especially in the high-growth security and mobile sectors with companies such as Telefonica, Symbian/Nokia, and Certicom, which she helped take public in Canada. Jennifer loves working with innovative founders and thinkers, from startups to global multinationals, to help them realize their ambitions. Jennifer serves on private and non-profit boards and she completed her MBA at UBC Sauder in 1993. Jennifer and her husband, Ray Kruck (MBA '92), are passionate about supporting philanthropic causes in education, planet health, the arts, and food and housing security, and enjoy spending time with their two kids traveling and enjoying the great outdoors.



### **Dr. Amiee Chan** BASc ECE, PhD EE (UBC)

Dr. Chan is President and CEO of Norsat International Inc., which provides communications solutions for remote and challenging applications. Products include satellite systems and components and land mobile radio antennas and RF conditioning products.

Dr. Chan was appointed President in 2006, and under her leadership, Norsat has had consistent growth and won a BC Export Award for Advancing Technology and Innovation.

Dr. Chan holds an Executive MBA from SFU, and has previously lent her expertise to NASA's ACTS Terminal Program.



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

## January 2025 Member Bios



### Mr. Geordie Henderson

Mr. Henderson is a Vancouver-based technology organization leader who has been building software companies, teams and products for over 15 years.

He is currently the SVP, Engineering at Bench in Vancouver. Prior to this he was the VP Software Development at Hootsuite.

Mr. Henderson serves on the Board of Directors at the BC Safety Authority.

He is also an active speaker, investor and advisor in the Canadian start-up community



### Mark Adams

BASc, MBA, FIMMM, FGC (Hon), Peng

Mark Adams is Vice President and Global Minerals and Metals Market Lead at AtkinsRéalis. He has worked in the mining industry for over 20 years in project, engineering, operations, and technology roles with some of the top mining companies in the world including Rio Tinto, Metso, Glencore, Teck, BHP, and Freeport-McMoRan.

He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Mining Engineering and a Master of Business Administration both from the University of British Columbia as well as executive education from Oxford and Aalto Universities and the Institute of Corporate Directors. He is a Professional Engineer in British Columbia, a Fellow of the UK Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, and an Honorary Fellow of Geoscientists Canada.

Alongside his professional work, Mark served 13 years as a reserve officer in the Canadian Armed Forces and sits on boards and committees for numerous non-profit organizations advocating for youth, seniors, veterans, education, healthcare, and engineering, including as Past Chair of Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

Mark has been recognized for his work with awards such as the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, and the Canadian Mineral Processors' Ray MacDonald Volunteer Award. In addition, he was included on Business in Vancouver's 40 Under 40 list and named one of the 500 Most Influential Business Leaders in BC in 2022 and 2023.



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

## January 2025 Member Bios



**Maureen Daschuk**  
MBA

Maureen Daschuk is BC Hydro's Senior Vice-President, Integrated Planning. Maureen joined BC Hydro in 2009, and most recently held the position of Director of Program & Contract Management, responsible for delivering more than \$500M of capital and maintenance program work annually.

Maureen's portfolio includes energy planning, asset management, dam safety and engineering. This team plays an integral role in planning a safe, efficient and reliable system that meets the needs of our customers, today and in the future.

Prior to joining BC Hydro, Maureen worked in senior roles at TELUS, including Director of Corporate Strategy and Director of the Project Management Office. Maureen holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario. With a passion for employee development and coaching people to be their best selves, Maureen is in the process of becoming an ICF certified coach and has delivered more than 100 hours of coaching to BC Hydro employees.



**Dr. Greg Kovacs**  
BASc ECE (UBC)

Greg is an Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering at Stanford University (26 years active duty). He has also served as Chief Medical Officer for Triple Ring Technologies and Chief Technology Officer for SRI International. He holds a BASc (EE) from the University of British Columbia, an MS (BioE) from U.C. Berkeley, a PhD (EE) and an MD from Stanford. He is a Fellow of the IEEE and AIMBE. Greg has been active in cardiovascular device design, physiology in extreme environments, mixed-signal circuit design, and sensor development, as well as co-founding the Bioengineering Department at Stanford. His government work includes serving as Investigation Scientist for the Columbia space shuttle accident investigation and Director of the Microsystems Technology Office of DARPA for which he received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. He has co-founded several companies, including molecular diagnostics innovator Cepheid. Greg is a pilot, mountaineer and maker, who enjoys fixing things – especially if they are broken.



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

January 2025 Member Bios



## **Ms. Patricia M. Mohr**

Honours B.A. and an M.A. in Economics

Patricia M. Mohr is the former Vice-President, Economics and Commodity Market Specialist at Scotiabank's Executive Offices in Toronto, where she worked closely for thirty years with Corporate and Investment Banking - including the Mining and Oil & Gas Teams - and with International Banking and Global Risk Management. Pat prepared the metal and oil & gas price forecasts for credit evaluations at home & abroad and advised Scotiabank's international clients.

Ms. Mohr developed the 'Scotiabank Commodity Price Index' - the first Index designed to measure price trends for Canadian commodities in export markets - and wrote a widely read monthly report on commodity market developments. Pat has been a frequent speaker at international mining conferences - including 'China Mining' in Beijing and Tianjin, the 'International Gold and Silver Symposium' in Lima Peru, Rim Zacatecas in Mexico and PDAC & AMEBC's RoundUp in Vancouver.

Ms. Mohr is currently on the Board of Directors of Horizon Copper Corp. and TECH-X Resources Inc., where she maintains a close interest in the outlook for critical minerals - vital for global decarbonization through electric vehicles and renewable energy. Pat is a former Director of Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA) - channelling public funds into leading-edge R&D for GHG mitigation as well as the Centre for Research & Innovation in the Bio-Economy (CRIBE & Nexfor) in Ontario.

Ms. Mohr holds an Honours B.A. Degree and an M.A. Degree in Economics from The University of British Columbia and was honoured to receive the 2021 'Robert Elver Award in Mineral Economics' from the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM).

Prior to joining Scotiabank, Ms. Mohr spent a number of years with Alberta Energy Company Ltd. in Calgary (which later became EnCana) and with CP Ships and Canadian Pacific Bermuda Ltd. (bulk shipping) in London, England, as Corporate Economist. Pat began her career as a mineral economist with Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa (previously called the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources).



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

## January 2025 Member Bios



### Mr. Ajai Sehgal

Ajai Sehgal has been Mayo Clinic's Chief Data & Analytics Officer since December 2020 with a focus on enabling the ethical use of Mayo Clinic's 159 years of data to inform the evolution of medicine and the development of future cures for the benefit of all of humanity. He was additionally appointed Chair, Digital Technology - Center for Digital Health in January 2024. Ajai has extensive experience in data, analytics, and AI based product and technology with global scale. Ajai served as CTO/CIO for Eagleview from December 2017 until September 2020 and the Chemistry Group as its CTO/CIO from January to December 2017 as well as Hootsuite as its CTO/CIO from 2014 to 2017, leading Data & Analytics, Software Engineering, IT, Security, and Operations. Prior to Hootsuite, he spent 16 years with the Royal Canadian Airforce before joining Microsoft in Redmond WA. While at Microsoft, he helped found and scale Expedia from a small group of 40 people within Microsoft into a new public company that became the world's largest travel agency.



### Anna Warwick Sears PhD

Anna Warwick Sears is the Executive Director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, a local government agency focused on Okanagan water sustainability. Raised in B.C., Dr. Sears received a PhD in population biology at the University of California - Davis, returning to Canada in 2006 to work for the Water Board. Her work includes government relations; delivering applied water science in partnership with government and university researchers; attracting funding and other resources for climate adaptation; and acting as spokesperson for media and public communications. Dr. Sears is a member of the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control, appointed by the International Joint Commission, and an alternate commissioner on the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, appointed by the B.C. Premier. Anna lives in Kelowna, and in her free time enjoys gardening, bike riding, paddling, cross-country skiing, and all the Okanagan has to offer.



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

January 2025 Member Bios



## Mr. Jerry Dobrovolny

P.Eng. (UBC), MBA

Commissioner and Chief Administrative Officer

With more than 35 years of experience in local government, large-scale infrastructure planning and operations management, Jerry Dobrovolny is a passionate advocate for local government leading Metro Vancouver's 2,000-strong workforce in providing essential utility and other critical services to the region's 23 member jurisdictions and 2.8 million residents. As stewards of over 25% of the Region's land base that ranges from high mountain watersheds to fresh and salt water marshes, Metro Vancouver's 150 scientists and technical staff are entrusted to protect the region's most sensitive ecological habitats.

Previously City Engineer and General Manager of Engineering Services at the City of Vancouver, and a New Westminster city councillor, Jerry's expertise and collaborative executive leadership skills spearhead Metro Vancouver's ambitious policy and utility capital programmes. With an annual budget of \$2.5 billion, priorities include upgrading multi-billion dollar utility systems, making the region more resilient against climate change, increasing the supply of affordable housing and delivering a regional strategy to bring economic prosperity and equity to all for generations to come.

Jerry has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering from the University of British Columbia, a Professional Engineering designation and a Master of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University. He also played offensive tackle in the Canadian Football League from 1983 to 1987. Jerry and his family live in New Westminster.



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

## January 2025 Member Bios



### Michael Jacobs

Michael Jacobs graduated in 1985 from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering. After 18 months with the Engineering Department of the City of Vancouver, he then completed his Master's Degree in Construction Management from Stanford University. Michael Jacobs, P. Eng., currently serves as Chairman of The Board of the Emil Anderson Group. He joined Emil Anderson Construction in 1988 as Project Manager for Dilworth Mountain Estates, a 750-acre residential development in Kelowna, B.C. In 1989 he founded Dilworth Quality Homes Inc, a residential building company in the EA Group. He was appointed General Manager of Land Development and Housing at EAC in 1996, promoted to Vice President in 1998 and President in 2004. He has extensive road building and heavy construction experience, and his project highlights include the Sliding Centre and Ski Jump venues in Whistler for the 2010 Winter Olympics, road and rail expansion at the Port of Prince Rupert, multiple highway projects in the Kicking Horse Canyon, over 2500 new homes in the Okanagan and many prestigious hillside developments.

As part of his service to the community, Michael was a founding Member and President of the Kelowna Chapter of the Urban Development Institute. He is also a past Director of the Construction and Labour Relations Association, a MoTI Industry Advisor, a Trustee of the OE 115 Pension Plan and he previously served as Chair to the BC Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association and the Kelowna Catholic School Council. In 2014, the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce awarded Michael with the Business Leader of the Year award and in 2015, EAC was recognized with the Chamber award for Best Large Business.

Michael was recently the Building Chair and a major funder to build a new wing and refurbish the existing school for St. Joseph Elementary in Kelowna.

Amongst all his work, Michael Jacobs has been a tremendous supporter of the UBCO through the Jacobs Family Bursary, contributions to the Engineering and Management Building, as a member of the UBC Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council and actively participates in the UBCO mentorship program.

Michael was a 2018 recipient of the Applied Science Dean's Medal of Distinction and awarded a UBC Alumni Builder Award in 2022.



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

January 2025 Member Bios



## Greg D'Avignon

Greg is a recognized leader, connector, and collaborator with over 30 years of experience shaping public policy, business strategy, and community initiatives across British Columbia and Canada. His career spans senior leadership roles in both the private and public sectors, including global and regulated industries and government, where he served the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Greg specializes in policy and business innovation, with a strong commitment to advancing economic reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. He provides strategic guidance to private sector innovators in health, technology and the natural resource sectors. This includes acting for Indigenous Nations, supporting energy, economic development, and infrastructure projects. His work fosters self-determination, attracts capital investment, and enhances operational certainty for both scaling and global businesses and Indigenous communities in Canada.

Before joining CSG, Greg spent 12 years as President and CEO of the Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC), representing 250 of the province's leading firms across all sectors and post-secondary institutions. Under his leadership, BCBC united businesses, governments, and Indigenous Nations to develop solution-oriented public policies that drove investment, innovation, and sustainable economic growth in British Columbia and beyond.

A University of British Columbia graduate, Greg remains actively engaged in the community. He serves as Chair of the YMCA of B.C. and the boards of the Pacific Autism Family Network and B.C. Achievement Foundation. His past leadership roles include Chair of the B.C. Cancer Foundation and Academic Health Sciences Network, as well as one of seven members on the Premier's COVID Advisory Council.

Greg's contributions have earned him the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and recognition as one of Business in Vancouver's Top 500 Business Leaders, and a spot on Vancouver Magazine's Power 50 list.



# Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Advisory Council

January 2025 Member Bios



## Dr. Bob Schubak, P.Eng.

Bob Schubak is the Vice-President of Engineering at BC Hydro. He holds BAsC (1984), MASc (1986) and PhD (1991) degrees in Civil Engineering from UBC. From 1990 to 2007, Bob practised as a consulting structural engineer, specializing in the investigation of structural and mechanical failures and earthquake engineering. Concurrently, Bob remained active in engineering education, serving over ten years as a lecturer and instructor of engineering at UBC, BCIT and continuing professional development programs. In 2001, with three colleagues from the consulting and university communities, he co-founded the Structural Engineers Association of BC's Certificate in Structural Engineering continuing professional development program and remained active as an instructor in that program through 2017. Bob formerly chaired the British Columbia Institute of Technology's Civil Engineering Program Advisory Committee and currently sits on the University of Victoria's Civil Engineering Advisory Council. He was named as a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering in 2008.

Bob joined BC Hydro in 2007, previously serving as Structural Engineering Team Lead, Engineering Division Manager for Generation Civil Design, and Director of Dam Safety where he was responsible for overseeing the program that manages the condition, performance and overall safety of BC Hydro's dams. He took on the role on Vice-President of Engineering in February of 2025.

