

2024 Summit and Awards Agenda

**Subject to change*

November 6th, 2024
12pm – 7pm EST
Islington Golf Club, Toronto

12:00pm – 1:00pm:
LUNCH AND NETWORKING

1:00pm – 2:00pm:
SESSION ONE

**The Private Company Governance Journey:
A Fireside Chat with the Inaugural, 2024 Winners of the Canada's Best Private Boards Program**

Hear it from the trailblazers themselves: governance drives next-level performance in private companies.

Yet it's a journey – that often starts from scratch and is forever evolving.

Join the four inaugural winners of the Canada's Best Private Boards program as they share their experience building and advancing performance-driving governance in their organizations. While their boards might be at different stages – ranging from newly-formed to well-established – there are common themes to the governance playbook. In this session, you will hear the stories, the ups and downs, as well as the "how" behind each organization's success.

If you're an aspiring Canada's Best Private Boards winner or a private company owner looking for help building a playbook, this is a must-attend session that will allow you to walk away with inspiration and concrete strategies for driving your organization's performance through governance.

Moderator:

- Jennifer Mondoux, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer, MondouxRollins Partners Inc.; Founder and Chair, Canada's Best Private Boards.

Panelists:

- Tristan Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer, Rocky Mountaineer (Category: Best Fiduciary Board – Family-Owned)
- Kerry Gerber, Board Chair, MTE Consultants Inc. (Category: Best Fiduciary Board – Employee-Owned or Partnership)
- James Nguyen, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Quantropi Inc. (Category: Best Fiduciary Board – Unrelated Shareholder's Ownership).
- Angela Santiago, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, The Little Potato Company (Category: Best Advisory Board)

2:00pm – 2:45pm:
SESSION TWO

**The Sticky Question of Succession:
How Private Company Boards Help Owners Create Succession Playbooks for the Next Chapter**

If you've ever looked for a playbook on succession planning in private companies and couldn't find one, you're not alone. In this session, nominees and winners to the Canada's Best Private Boards program are here to share their stories – on drivers of succession, on bumps in the road, on the playbooks and processes they built (from scratch), and how board directors and company founders worked together to build the succession strategy. A must-attend for any private company leader looking for a practical succession plan to minimize risk and sleep better at night.

Stay tuned – speakers coming soon!

2:45pm – 3:05pm:
NETWORKING BREAK

3:05pm – 4:00pm:
SESSION THREE

**Step Outside Your Echo Chamber:
How Independent Directors Drive the Performance of Private Companies**

Private company founders can be allergic to formal governance, let alone the idea of bringing someone in "from the outside".

But did you know reluctance to embrace external perspectives – especially on a board – is not only increasing organizational risk but also holding back performance?

In this session, we will unpack strategies for bringing external perspectives on to your board, including independent director recruitment, compensation and integration. We will also discuss how being purposeful about recruiting diverse independents (in experience, perspectives and backgrounds) can both de-risk the business and be a significant driver of organizational performance – even if you start small.

Stay tuned – speakers coming soon!

4:00pm – 5:00pm:
SESSION FOUR

**Founders and Investors Unite:
The Changing Face of Investor Boards**

An investment can be a lifeline, allowing an organization to set in motion its growth plans and strategic goals. With investors come board seats, as well as a unique and critical relationship between founders and owners, and the private equity or venture capital firms backing them. In this session, we look at the evolving nature of this relationship and discuss best practices for building strong boards, for driving growth and for supporting founders through change.

Stay tuned – speakers coming soon!

4:45pm:
CLOSING REMARKS

5:00pm – 7:00pm:
COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

Celebrating the 2024 Winners of the Canada's Best Private Boards Program

The winners in four categories are:

- The Little Potato Company (Best Advisory Board)
- MTE Consultants Inc. (Best Fiduciary Board – Employee-Owned or Partnership)
- Armstrong Hospitality Group Ltd, DBA Rocky Mountaineer (Best Fiduciary Board – Family-Owned)
- Quantropi Inc. (Best Fiduciary Board – Unrelated Shareholder's Ownership)

Following the program, we will be presenting our winners with their awards and toasting their success at our cocktail reception. As the "wrap" part of the program, this is also an opportunity for all attendees to connect and network with other founders, leaders, advisory board members and directors of mid-market family businesses, investor-backed companies and employee-owned firms.