

16th Annual
Ontario Construction Secretariat
**STATE OF THE
INDUSTRY & OUTLOOK
CONFERENCE 2016**

MARCH 8, 2016

HILTON TORONTO HOTEL
145 RICHMOND ST. W.
TORONTO, ON

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AGENDA & SPEAKER BIOS INSIDE

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Ontario Construction Secretariat

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16th Annual
Ontario Construction Secretariat

STATE OF THE INDUSTRY & OUTLOOK CONFERENCE 2016

TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2016
TORONTO BALLROOM, HILTON TORONTO HOTEL

MODERATOR



Sean W. Strickland

Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Construction Secretariat

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Construction Secretariat, Sean liaises with trade unions, contractors, government stakeholders and buyers of construction services to enhance relationships and to improve the competitive position of Ontario's unionized ICI construction industry. Prior to the OCS, Sean was the Business Manager of the Waterloo, Wellington, Dufferin, Grey Building and Construction Trades Council. A strong advocate and communicator, Sean also represents the residents of the City of Waterloo as their regional councillor. Sean has a degree in Political Science from the University of Waterloo.

AGENDA

- 7:15 am** **Registration**
-
- 7:30 am** **Networking Breakfast**
-
- 8:30 am** **Opening Welcome**
Sean W. Strickland, Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Construction Secretariat
-
- 8:45 am** **Greetings**
Hon. Deb Matthews, MPP
Deputy Premier, President of the Treasury Board and
Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy
-
- 9:00 am** **Unraveling Canada's Current Economic Status - Good, Bad or Indifferent**
Craig Wright, Senior Vice President & Chief Economist
Royal Bank of Canada
-
- 10:00 am** **Construction Confidence Indicator - Ontario and The Regions**
Katherine Jacobs, Director of Research
Ontario Construction Secretariat
-
- 10:30 am** **Break**
-
- 10:45 am** **How Will Ontario's Economy Impact Construction?**
Moderator: *Sean W. Strickland*, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Construction Secretariat
Panelists:
Craig Alexander, Vice President, Economic Analysis, C.D. Howe Institute
Prof. Livio Di Matteo, Professor of Economics at Lakehead University and Senior Fellow at the Fraser Institute
Mark Romoff, President & CEO, The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships
-
- 12:00 pm** **Closing Remarks**



Speaker presentations will be available on the Conference Event App
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for the conference. All registrants of our conference have access to our event app



FEATURED SPEAKERS



Craig Wright

Senior Vice President and Chief Economist
Royal Bank of Canada

As chief economist, Craig leads a team of economists providing economic, fixed income and foreign exchange research to RBC clients. Craig is a regular contributor to a number of RBC publications and is a key player in delivering economic analysis to clients and the media through the Economics Department's regular economic briefings.

A graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Toronto, Craig was appointed Chief Economist in 2001 having joined RBC in 1994 after working at another financial institution for seven years. Craig is a participant in a number of the key RBC internal committees and is a member of the CD Howe Monetary Policy Council, Wilfrid Laurier School of Business and Economics Dean's Advisory Council and the British Columbia Economic Forecast Council.



Katherine Jacobs

Director of Research
Ontario Construction Secretariat

As the Director of Research at the Ontario Construction Secretariat, Katherine Jacobs provides a wealth of knowledge and insight on key trends affecting Ontario's construction industry. Working with industry stakeholders, Katherine has developed one of the largest depositories of construction-related statistics and undertakes an annual survey of ICI contractors. Sharing this information through regular newsletters, publications, and conferences, OCS aims to improve the competitive position of the industry through knowledge, research and discussion. Key areas of research include: competitiveness, the underground economy, fair wage policies, safety, labour market conditions, demographics and apprenticeship. Ms. Jacobs holds a Masters of Environmental Studies from York University and an undergraduate degree in Economics from Queen's University.

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Craig Alexander

Vice President, Economic Analysis
C.D. Howe Institute

Craig Alexander is the Vice President, Economic Analysis at the C.D. Howe Institute. Previously he was Senior Vice President and Chief Economist for TD Bank Group. In that role, he managed a large team of economists that supported all of the divisions and clients of TD – the second largest bank in Canada and the eighth largest bank in the United States.

Mr. Alexander has 20 years of experience in the private sector as an economic and financial forecaster. He is also a regular commentator on public policy and a sought after public speaker. Prior to joining the private sector, he spent four years as an economist at Statistics Canada.

A former two-term President of the Canadian Association for Business Economics and a current board member for the National Association for Business Economics, he holds a graduate degree in economics from the University of Toronto.



Prof. Livio Di Matteo

Professor of Economics at Lakehead University &
Senior Fellow at the Fraser Institute

Professor Livio Di Matteo is a Professor of Economics at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario and a Senior Fellow at the Fraser Institute. He specializes in public policy, health economics, public finance, and economic history. His recent research has focused on health care spending and its sustainability.

Di Matteo is a member of the CIHI National Health Expenditure Advisory Panel, the Evidence Network (EvidenceNetwork.ca), and is a contributor to the economics blog Worthwhile Canadian Initiative.

He has been listed in Canadian Who's Who since 1995 and holds a PhD from McMaster University, an MA from the University of Western Ontario, and a BA from Lakehead University.



Mark Romoff

President & Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships

Mark Romoff is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships (CCPPP). Established in 1993, CCPPP's mission is to promote innovative approaches to infrastructure development and service delivery through public-private partnerships with all levels of government.

Previously, Mark was founding President and CEO of the Ontario Centres of Excellence, Canada's leading innovation, technology commercialization and entrepreneurship development organization.

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