

SUPPLY CHAIN DYNAMICS IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE



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FOOD, HEALTH &
CONSUMER PRODUCTS
OF CANADA



Panel theme: Canada's supply chain is consistently under pressure from stiff international competition, availability and scarcity of resources, labour disruptions, much needed infrastructure investments and extreme weather events. This workshop would explore potential challenges facing Canadian producers in getting their products to market domestically and internationally, in the context the challenges noted above.



MICHAEL GRAYDON - Moderator
President/CEO, Food, Health and Consumer Products of Canada

Michael has nearly 20 years of visionary CEO leadership across multiple industries, driving proactive and stakeholder engagement and consistent corporate results. Since joining FHCP in 2016, his leadership has repositioned the organization into a driving force on industry issues as diverse as Canada's Healthy Eating Strategy, environmental sustainability, product labelling and the dynamics of the supplier/retailer relationship.



ARUN THANGARAJ - Keynote Speaker
Deputy Minister, Transport Canada

Arun Thangaraj was appointed Deputy Minister of Transport on February 20, 2023. Before joining Transport Canada, Arun was the Associate Deputy Minister at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, following two years as the Associate Deputy Minister at Transport Canada.

Before these roles, he was Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Financial Officer at Global Affairs Canada and was the Deputy Chief Financial Officer at the former Canadian International Development Agency. He also brings experience and knowledge on transportation issues, from his time at the Canadian Transportation Agency from 2002 to 2011.

Arun received the Queen Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013 for his contribution to the federal public service and to his community. He has served on various governance boards and is a sessional lecturer in the School of Public Administration at Carleton University.

Arun is a Chartered Professional Accountant and holds a Master of Arts in Public Administration from Carleton University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Ottawa, and an Honours BA in Political Science from the University of Toronto.



RON LEMAIRE - Panelist
President, Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA)

Ron works in the fast-paced world of perishable products that manoeuvres through global regulatory swings, supply chain disruptions, variable climate, food safety outbreaks, disruptive technology advancements, and ever-changing consumer demands and expectations. In his role as CPMA President, Ron represents the needs and interests of over 830 Canadian and international member companies who are responsible for over 90% of the fresh fruit and vegetable sales in Canada.

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MARC BRAZEAU - Panelist

President & CEO - Railway Association of Canada



Marc Brazeau is the President & CEO of The Railway Association of Canada (RAC), one of Canada's leading trade associations, representing more than 50 freight and passenger railway companies. Marc brings close to 30 years of experience in the transportation industry to his leadership role with the RAC. Prior to joining the RAC, Marc was the Vice-President of Sales and Marketing at Uni-Select where he brought significant growth to this North American auto parts distributor. Previously, Marc served as the President and CEO of the Automotive Industries Association of Canada where he was responsible for delivering a number of important industry initiative and programs aimed at growing the automotive service and repair industry in Canada for 20 consecutive years.

As a natural leader, Marc has successfully led a number of strategic initiatives for national trade associations as well as overseeing the growth of a leading publicly traded auto parts company in Canada.

JEAN GATTUSO - Panelist

Past-President & CEO, Lassonde Inc; Member of multiple industry boards



Mr. Gattuso began his career at Lassonde Industries Inc. as Director of Marketing for the A. Lassonde Inc. subsidiary in 1987 and quickly rose through the ranks of the organization, serving in numerous senior executive positions, leading to his appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer of A. Lassonde Inc. in 2004. He was appointed as Chief Operating Officer of Lassonde Industries in 2009 and then President and Chief Operating Officer in 2012.

Lassonde Industries brings together all Lassonde entities in Canada and the U.S. Under the leadership of Mr. Gattuso, the company has considerably expanded its market reach and manufacturing footprint. It now operates 17 plants in Canada and the U.S., employing more than 2,700 workers and reaching \$1.9B in sales in 2020. Mr. Gattuso co-founded the Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec and twice served as Chairman of the Board of Directors (2002-2003 and 2013-2016). He currently holds a number of board memberships.

Mr. Gattuso has received many awards over the course of his career, including the Golden Pencil Award in 2015, the MBA of the Year Award in 2014 and Entrepreneur of the Year 2008 from Ernst & Young in Quebec. In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in business from McGill University, he has an MBA from l'Université du Québec à Montréal.