

Leadership in a time of uncertainty

Quebec City, April 16-17, 2024

Le leadership en période d'incertitude

Québec, les 16 et 17 avril 2024

Biographies

2024 public opinion polling results



David Coletto, founder, Chair, and CEO, Abacus Data

David Coletto is founder, Chair & CEO of Abacus Data a full-service market research and strategy firm based in Ottawa and Toronto. With twenty years experience, David founded Abacus 14 years ago and since then David has become one of Canada's most respected pollsters who sought-after to provide analysis on politics, the labour market, and consumer behaviour.

He earned a PhD in Political Science from the University of Calgary in 2010 is an adjunct professor at Carleton University. He is the host and producer of inFocus with David Coletto a podcast that explores the intersection of public opinion, politics, public policy, and consumer behaviour. This month, the Hill Times newspaper named David one of Canada's top 100 most influential people in Canadian politics.

Keynote speaker



The Honorable Senator Michèle Audette

Michèle Audette is a recognized Indigenous leader.

The daughter of a Quebecer father and an Innu mother, Michèle Audette comes from the Innu community of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam in Quebec. She has played a key role in transforming the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Quebec and Canadian society since the 1990s. At only 27 years old, she was elected president of the association Quebec Native Women. In 2004, she was appointed Associate Deputy Minister to the Secrétariat à la condition féminine of Quebec. From 2012 to 2015, she served as President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. In 2015, she helped created an innovative graduate program in Indigenous public administration for the École nationale d'administration publique.

Ms. Audette was appointed as one of the five commissioners responsible for conducting the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Since 2019, she has been Assistant to the Vice-Rector of Academic and Student Affairs, and Senior Advisor for reconciliation and Indigenous education at the Université Laval.

In recognition of her significant contributions, Ms. Audette received the 2018 Woman of Distinction Award in the Inspiration category from the Women's Y Foundation of Montréal. She was named Woman of the Year in 2014 by the Montreal Council of Women, and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. She also received an honorary doctorate from the University de Montréal, in acknowledgement of the scope of her commitment to the cause of Indigenous women and her tireless work on reconciliation between peoples.

Ms. Audette studied visual arts at the Université du Québec à Montréal, and art education at Concordia University.

Interview of Chief Science and Innovation Officers



Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Québec

Since his appointment as Chief Scientist of Quebec, Rémi Quirion, OC, CQ, PhD, FRSC, chairs the boards of directors of the three Fonds de recherche du Québec and advises the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy on research and scientific development issues. He is the president of the International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA) as of September 2021.

Until his appointment, Rémi Quirion was the vice-dean for science and strategic initiatives in the faculty of medicine at McGill University and senior university advisor on health sciences research. He was the scientific director of the Douglas Mental Health University Institute Research Centre, a full professor in the department of psychiatry at McGill University and the executive director of the International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Professor Quirion was the first scientific director of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), one of Canada's 13 health research institutes.

His work helped to elucidate the roles of the cholinergic system in Alzheimer's disease, of neuropeptide Y in depression and memory and of the calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) in pain and opiate tolerance. Rémi Quirion earned his PhD in pharmacology from Université de Sherbrooke in 1980 and carried out his postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Mental Health in the United States in 1983. He has over 750 publications in prominent scientific journals and is one of the most extensively cited neuroscientists in the world. He has received several awards and honours, including the Ordre national du Québec (Chevalier du Québec, CQ) in 2003, the Prix Wilder-Penfield (Prix du Québec) in 2004 and the Order of Canada (OC) in 2007. Mr. Quirion is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and was also inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. In 2015, he was appointed Officer in the Order of Academic Palms of the French Republic, a distinction awarded by the French government that recognizes its contribution to the development of French-Québec relations in research.



Luc Sirois, Chief Innovation Officer of the Conseil de l'innovation du Québec

Luc Sirois is the Chief Innovation Officer of Quebec and Director General of the Conseil de l'innovation du Québec (Quebec Council for Innovation). He is also founding chair of Axelys, a non-profit dedicated to commercializing public research in Quebec.

He holds a bachelor's in electrical engineering from McGill University and an MBA from Harvard University. He is also a technology and social entrepreneur who is recognized in Quebec and around the world for his creative approach to innovation and his contributions to

digital technology in the province.

He is involved in many youth, health, science, and education-focused startups and non-profits, and is the cofounder of the Hacking Health movement for health innovation and a digital health accelerator and seed fund. He also cofounded Resonant Medical (now Elekta Canada), a leading innovator in radiation therapy solutions for cancer care.

In the field of connected health, Mr. Sirois has served as a vice-president at TELUS Health, Telesystem and Nightingale. He has worked as a strategic consulting manager in McKinsey & Company's Montreal, Toronto, Zurich and Paris offices. More recently, he held the position of General Manager of Prompt, a non-profit that facilitates partnerships between businesses and the public research sector to enhance Quebec's competitiveness in the information and communication technology market.

From August to December 2020, he served as a strategic advisor to the Quebec Minister of Economy and Innovation, leading the development of a new model for enhancing the value of public research. He was then appointed as the first Chief Innovation Officer of Quebec.

An associate professor at HEC Montréal, Mr. Sirois is an excellent ambassador for science and innovation. A strong and creative advocate of knowledge sharing and mobilization, he boldly and skillfully instills his passion for science in talented young people.