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2026 Biographies



Bonnie Patterson

Executive Coach & Consultant, Higher Education Governance & Leadership

Bonnie Patterson is a Consultant and Executive Coach in Higher Education Leadership & Governance and Professor Emeritus, Business, Trent University. She's the Past President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities, served as President & Vice Chancellor of Trent University from 1998 to 2009. She also held a Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Academic Leadership at Toronto Metropolitan University. She has received highest honours for her exceptional leadership in the postsecondary community. Her business acumen and problem-solving skills have benefited organizations in developing public private partnerships in a number of

areas. The Roberta Bondar Foundation welcomes the depth that her multi-faceted professional attributes add to its Board.

She also served earlier in her career as Dean of Business at Toronto Metropolitan University, chaired and taught at its School of Administration and Information Management and began her academic career at Western University.

Professor Patterson serves on the Board of Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation, serves as a member of its Investment Committee and chairs its Governance & Human Resources Committee. She also serves on the Board of the Council of Ontario Universities and Chairs the board of the Roberta Bondar Foundation. She is a past Board member at Metrolinx (a transit and transportation Agency of the Government of Ontario); was a Trustee of the Canadian Associates of the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (CABIOS); and a Founding Board Member of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority and a Founding member of Board of International Institute for Environmental Studies, a collaboration between Trent University/Nanjing University and 12 global university partners.

While Trent President, Patterson served as one of four Canadian university presidents on the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and served on their Audit & Risk Committee. She has served as Chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

(now Universities Canada); as a director on the board of the Peterborough Regional Health Centre for nine years, including two as its Chair and four as Chair of its finance committee; and on the Advisory Board of the Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation.

In addition, Patterson participated in a number of provincial advisory committees in Ontario including the Biotechnology Commercialization Centre Fund; Health Industries Advisory Committee; and the Centres of Excellence, Ontario Technology Fund. She recently served as Vice Chair of the Ontario Blue Ribbon Panel on Post Secondary Education Financial Sustainability.

In 2006, she was recognized by the Women's Executive Network with a Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada award in the Trailblazers and Trendsetters category. In 2010 Prof. Patterson was appointed to the Order of Ontario and as a Member of the Order of Canada for her contributions as a leader in postsecondary education. She holds several honorary doctorates from Ontario universities.



**The Honourable Bob Rae
Canada's 25th Ambassador to the United Nations**

The Honourable Bob Rae brings over five decades of leadership at the highest levels of international diplomacy, national politics, and public policy. As Canada's former Ambassador to the United Nations, Premier of Ontario, and interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, he offers audiences rare insight into navigating complex global challenges, building consensus across divides, and leading through transformation. His keynotes draw on firsthand experience with humanitarian crises, negotiations with world leaders, and critical issues — delivered with the wisdom of a statesman and the accessibility of a natural storyteller.

Rae served as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York from 2020 to 2025, joining the likes of Lester Pearson and George Davidson as Canadians elected in their personal capacity to preside over UN Charter bodies. During his tenure, Rae became the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2024-25, the second Canadian to assume the role, and also chaired the Advisory Committee on Haiti and led discussions on financing for development, children in armed conflict, and counterterrorism.

Prior to his diplomatic service, Rae served as Premier of Ontario from 1990-1995 and interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada from 2011 to 2013. He was elected to federal and provincial parliaments 11 times between 1978 and 2013 and has been honoured by the alumni of both bodies for his distinguished service. His return to Parliament representing Toronto Centre in 2008 led to his appointment as Foreign Affairs spokesman and ultimately to his role as interim Leader.

Rae also served as Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar in 2017, where he engaged in diplomatic efforts to address the crisis in Rakhine State and authored the influential report "Tell

Them We're Human". In March 2020, he was named Canada's Special Envoy on Humanitarian and Refugee Issues by Prime Minister Trudeau, leading to his report "A Global Pandemic Requires a Global Response." He also served as Chief Negotiator for the nine First Nations of the Matawa Tribal Council in Northern Ontario from 2013 to 2018 and was appointed to the Security and Intelligence Review Committee by Prime Minister Chrétien.

Rae has practiced law with three distinguished firms and led high-profile assignments including the restructuring of the Canadian Red Cross and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He chaired the board of the Royal Conservatory of Music and authored "Lessons to be Learned" on the Air India bombing and "Ontario a Leader in Learning," a comprehensive study of the Ontario higher education system.

Between 1996-99 and 2013-2020, Rae taught law, politics, and public policy at the University of Toronto, serving as the Wilson Professor of Public Policy at Victoria University from 2016 to 2020. He is a Fellow of the Forum of Federations (an organization he co-founded in the 1990s), Massey College, and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.

Rae is a Rhodes Scholar with an M.Phil in Politics from Balliol College, Oxford University, and a law degree from the University of Toronto. He is a Privy Councillor, a Companion of the Order of Canada, and a member of the Order of Ontario. Rae is also the author of five books: *From Protest to Power: Reflections on a Life in Politics*, *The Three Questions*, *Exporting Democracy*, *Canada in the Balance*, and *What's Happened to Politics*.



Cheryl A. Foy
President, Strategic Governance Consulting Services

Cheryl Foy believes that good governance is foundational to organizational effectiveness. She has worked in governance for twenty years having held General Counsel and Corporate Secretary executive roles in the public and private technology company context and within higher education. She is a thought leader in strategy and governance.

Cheryl is an advocate for good governance and the development of the in-house legal profession. She is a founder and the Past President of Women General Counsel Canada, a national organization established by female general counsel who recognize that the role of GC is a unique leadership role

bridging law and business and also that women in the GC role have common challenges and opportunities.



Simon Chan
Chair of the Board of Governors, Wilfrid Laurier
University

Simon Chan is a strategic advisor who helps boards and executive teams address one of the most under-recognized forces reshaping institutions: longer lives and shifting age demographics. His work focuses on how longevity is altering workforce strategy, retirement systems, leadership pipelines, and long-term value creation.

Simon is the Founder and CEO of Adapt with Intent Inc., where he advises senior leaders on aligning organizational strategy with the realities of 100-year careers, multigenerational workforces, and longer retirement horizons. He works with boards to reframe longevity from a demographic risk into a strategic growth and resilience issue, informing decisions on talent, customer strategy, innovation, and governance.

He serves as a Global Ambassador and Community Manager for the Stanford Center on Longevity, helping translate leading research into practical guidance for employers, financial institutions, and educators. He also co-chairs The Nexel Collaborative, working with universities including Harvard, the University of Chicago, and the University of Notre Dame to develop new models for midlife transitions and lifelong contribution. Simon serves on the Advisory Board of Yale's Experienced Leaders Initiative and is a Senior Impact Fellow at CoGenerate, advancing intergenerational innovation in higher education.

Simon brings direct governance experience as Chair of the Board of Governors at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Canada, combining board-level oversight with hands-on experience navigating institutional transformation. Earlier in his career, he held senior executive roles in strategy, innovation, and talent, advised Fortune 500 organizations, and led future-of-work initiatives at Communitech.

Simon writes a featured column on longevity for Advisor.ca and has contributed to Forbes and leading pension and benefits publications. He is known for helping boards connect demographic change to clear strategic choices before those forces become sources of risk, constraint, or missed opportunity.



Matthew Pegg
Deputy Minister, Emergency Preparedness and Response

Matthew Pegg was appointed Deputy Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response for Ontario in October 2025. In this role, he leads the province's strategic planning, preparedness and coordinated response to emergencies, working in partnership with all levels of government, Indigenous communities and organizations, non-profits and private industry.

Prior to his appointment, Matthew served as Chief Operating Officer of Warrior Health, where he led the development and implementation of Ontario's Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel (MHS4PSP) strategy. He continues to be a passionate advocate for mental health, working to reduce stigma and promoting resilience among public safety professionals across the province.

Matthew's public safety career spans more than 32 years. From 2016 to 2024, he served as Chief of Toronto Fire Services, one of the largest and most complex in North America. Under his leadership, Toronto Fire Services focused on data, outcomes and people. He launched Canada's first emergency services Data Analytics and Decision Support team and the Toronto Fire Services Mental Health and Wellness Program.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Matthew was appointed the City of Toronto's Incident Commander from March 2020 to April 2022. He led the longest sustained activation of the City's Emergency Operations Centre and oversaw Toronto's COVID-19 Immunization Task Force, which contributed to the design of the provincial playbook for vaccine clinic operations.

Earlier in his career, he held senior leadership roles in fire services across multiple Ontario municipalities, including Toronto, Brampton, Ajax and Georgina. He is also a licensed mechanic and commercial pilot, having worked professionally in both fields.

Matthew is a graduate of Dalhousie University in Leadership and Administration, Queen's University in Labour Relations and the Schulich School of Business in Public Management. His service has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Heroism and Community Service Medal, the Ontario Medal for Firefighter's Bravery, the Canadian Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal and the Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal.



Michael Cullen
Co-Director, Rotman Executive Coaching Certificate Program,
University of Toronto

Michael Cullen is a professionally certified: Executive & Leadership Coach, Group & Team Coach, Mentor Coach, and Coaching Supervisor & ICF Assessor.

For the past 16 years he has educated and trained hundreds of coaches via coaching programs he facilitated at Concordia University, McGill University, and since 2021, at the University of Toronto where he is the Founder & Co-Director of the Rotman School of Management's Executive Coaching Certificate (RECC) program.

With an absolute passion for collaborating with clients who are motivated to move beyond the status quo and put their idealism to the test, his creative, strengths-based approach has served to successfully coach executives, managers, and teams through complex change, growth and transition challenges.

Michael's highly engaging and non-judgmental approach allows for effective exploration of feasible options, new opportunities, and practical solutions. His systemic approach incorporates a balanced approach towards both personal and professional development. Coupled with performance coaching, clients readily gain clarity, insight, and the means to be more efficient and effective in their endeavors.

Michael's specialized skills and prized ability to see patterns and potential help his clients to quickly come to grips to what needs to be recognized and resolved in a manner that empowers them. His genuine concern for his client's success, blended with his ease of connection with both the person and the issue, consistently results in high-impact, successful coaching outcomes.

Michael is currently pursuing a Professional Certificate in Supervising Groups and Teams from Oxford Brookes University. He is a member of the Graduate School Alliance for Education in Coaching (GSAEC).