

Speakers on Economic Outlook



Dr. Lloyd Atkinson - Dr. Atkinson was Executive Vice President and Chief Economist of a major Canadian Bank for 12 years. Before that, he served for two years as Deputy Assistant Director at the US Congressional Budget Office in Washington and prior to that served for two years as Senior Economist at the Joint Economic Committee of the US Congress. Atkinson has taught at a number of US universities and has also served as a consultant to the US delegations to the IMF and the World Bank. Atkinson's in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience make him uniquely positioned to speak on the economic picture and its impact on business.



Jeffrey Simpson - As the Globe and Mail's national affairs columnist since 1984, Jeffrey Simpson knows domestic and international issues. He has won the Governor General's award for non-fiction writing, the National Magazine Award for political writing and the National Newspaper Award for column writing. He has also won the Hyman Solomon Award for excellence in public policy journalism. Simpson's views have been published in Saturday Night, Report on Business Magazine, The Journal of Canadian Studies and The Queen's Quarterly. Jeffrey Simpson regularly contributes to television and radio programs in both official languages and is a sought-after speaker at major conferences in Canada and abroad.



The Hon. Brian Tobin - Former Federal Minister & Premier of Newfoundland, Tobin instantly gained recognition throughout Canada and abroad in 1995, by fiercely denouncing foreign over-fishing off the Grand Banks as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. While serving as the Federal Minister of Industry, Tobin helped develop an Innovation Agenda aimed at establishing Canada as a world leader in the global knowledge-based economy of the 21st century. One of the best orators in the country, he will inspire audiences with a vision for Canada, while at the same time giving them a new-found faith in the future of Canadian business and industry.



Dr. Jack Mintz – Dr. Mintz has published widely in the field of public economics and named in 2004 as one of the world's most influential tax experts by a UK magazine. He serves as an Associate Editor of International Tax and Public Finance and the Canadian Tax Journal, and is a research fellow of CESifo, Munich, Germany and the Centre for Business Taxation Institute, Oxford University. He has consulted widely with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Dr. Mintz's book, Most Favored Nation: A Framework for Smart Economic Policy, was winner of the Purvis Prize for best book in economic policy.



Stephen Lewis – Stephen Lewis is a brilliant speaker who offers thought-provoking political, social and economic commentary on International Relations and Current Affairs, Human Rights, Global Education, Employment Equity and Race Relations, Health Care and The Environment. The former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, Mr. Stephen Lewis is the inaugural Scholar-in-Residence at the Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition at McMaster University. Mr. Lewis was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement, in 2003. The same year, Maclean's magazine honoured Mr. Lewis as their inaugural "Canadian of the Year." In April 2005, TIME magazine listed Stephen Lewis as one of the '100 most influential people in the world'.



Dr. Michael Walker - Michael Walker is a Senior Fellow at The Fraser Institute and President of the Fraser Institute Foundation. Dr. Walker uses his expert analysis to illustrate to his audiences the economic strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that exist around the world. He is in high demand for his opinions and perspectives on major issues that impact business -- trade, taxation, social policy and international competition. His speeches are humorous, educational, witty and thought-provoking.