



Guest Panel Speakers



Laurence Cooke

Founder & CEO, nanopay Corporation

Laurence is the founder and CEO of nanopay Corporation, a technology company that offers business-to-business payments and liquidity management solutions to businesses and financial institutions. Active in the payments community, Laurence is a member of the Payments Canada Stakeholder Advisory Committee, FinPay and the US Federal Reserve Faster Payments Task Force. Previously, he was VP of Wireless at Shaw Communications and COO of Bell Mobility.

Prior to starting nanopay, Laurence worked with WIND Canada and was Vice President of Wireless at Shaw Communications Inc. He was also Chief Operating Officer of Bell Mobility and Bell Distribution Inc (BDI), where he was responsible for all of Bell Mobility's operations and led a team of 9,000 employees. At BDI, Laurence was responsible for all retail for Bell Canada. Prior to joining Bell, Laurence was a senior executive in Accenture's London Strategy Practice. Laurence co-founded two wireless data businesses in Europe, Melodeo, Inc. and Xtempus.



Pierre Siklos

Professor of Economics, Wilfrid Laurier University, and CIGI Senior Fellow

Pierre Siklos specializes in macroeconomics with an emphasis on the study of inflation, central banks, and financial markets. He also conducts research in applied time series analysis. His research has been published in a variety of international journals and he has been a consultant to a variety of institutions and central banks. His work has been widely cited in several macro and econometrics textbooks. He has also been a visiting lecturer at several universities around Europe and North America, Australia, and New Zealand. His research has been funded by domestic and international agencies.

In 1999 he was Erskine Fellow at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand and in 2009 was William Evans Fellow at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. He was WLU's University Research Professor for



the academic year 2000-2001, the Director of the Viessmann European Research Centre from 2005-14, and a member of the Czech National Bank's Research Advisory Committee between 2012-18. In 2008, Siklos was chairholder of the Bundesbank Foundation of International Monetary Economics at the Freie Universitat, Berlin. In December 2008 he became a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

He is a Guest Professor at the University of Münster, in Germany, an Research Fellow of the South African Reserve Bank and Stellenbosch University, and has been appointed Fondation France-Japon/Banque de France Fellow for 2021-22.



Walied Soliman

Chair, Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP and Chair of the Government of Ontario Capital Markets Modernization Taskforce

Walied Soliman is the Canadian chair of Norton Rose Fulbright and co-chair of the firm's special situations team. He is widely regarded as one of Canada's leading lawyers in his field of practice, having been involved in some of the most significant and complex M&A transactions and proxy battles in the country, advising buyers and sellers, boards, hostile bidders and shareholder activists. In addition, his practice focuses on restructurings, corporate finance, governance and structured products.

Mr. Soliman was mandated in 2020 by the government of Ontario to chair the Capital Markets Modernization Taskforce. In 2019, Mr. Soliman was chosen by the United Nations Association in Canada to be its Global Citizen Laureate for his professional merit and service to the community. He was the only lawyer featured in the Globe and Mail's Report on Business Magazine Power 50 list in 2017, was designated as a "Star Lawyer" by Acritas that same year for ranking in the top 28 lawyers globally, was named a Top 40 Lawyer under 40 in Canada by Lexpert magazine in 2009 and he has been recognized by some of the most prestigious legal rankings over the years. Mr. Soliman sits on the boards of the BlackNorth Initiative against anti-Black racism, Ryerson University, and the Toronto SickKids Hospital Foundation.



Robert (Bob) Fay

Managing Director of Digital Economy, Centre for International Governance Innovation

Robert (Bob) Fay is the managing director of digital economy at CIGI. The research under his direction assesses and provides policy recommendations for the complex global governance issues arising from digital technologies. He brings to this position extensive experience in macro- and micro-economic research and policy analysis. He is also a member of the 2020–2021 Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) Ad Hoc Strategic Advisory Committee, providing feedback on the priorities the IPC will focus on over the next five years.

Prior to joining CIGI, Bob held several senior roles at the Bank of Canada (BoC), most recently as senior director overseeing work to assess developments and implications arising from the digitization of the Canadian economy. As deputy director of the International Department at the BoC, he assessed global economic developments and their implications for Canada and investigated a wide variety of issues, including those related to the international monetary system and global financial architecture. He has also led the BoC's Canadian short-term forecasting team and set up and led its first research division related to structural analysis, focusing on labour markets, productivity and exchange rate analysis. Bob was also special assistant to BoC Governor Mark Carney, serving as the governor's chief of staff. Prior to joining the BoC, Bob was an economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and worked on a range of economic and labour market issues.

Bob holds an M.A. in economics from Queen's University and an undergraduate degree in applied studies (economics) from the University of Waterloo.



Amy Swenson

Director of Digital Identity, Ontario Digital Service

Amy Swenson is currently the Director of Digital Identity for the Ontario Digital Service. In her 13 years with the provincial government, she's played a key role for various initiatives related to digital transformation, including introducing digital technologies to government communications planning, the rethink of Ontario.ca and the start-up of the Ontario Digital Service. Prior to joining government, Amy worked as a developer, strategist, and product leader in the private sector, and spent several years as a small business owner.

Scott Hendry

Senior Special Director, Financial Technology (FinTech) Banking and Payments Department, Bank of Canada

Scott Hendry was appointed Senior Special Director of Financial Technology (FinTech) in the Banking and Payments Department of the Bank of Canada in June 2016. In this role, he oversees the Bank's efforts to monitor and research developments and implications of new technologies affecting the financial sector. This includes serving as the business lead on the Bank's central bank digital currency research program. He previously held the role of Director of Research in the Funds Management and Banking Department and, before that, for the Financial Markets Department.

Mr. Hendry's personal research has focused on central bank digital currency, electronic money, price discovery in the Canadian government bond market, and central bank communication. He has a BA in Economics from Wilfrid Laurier University and MA and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Western Ontario.