



Wednesday June 4, 2025 Halifax, Nova Scotia

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07:30 - 08:20 **Check-in and Networking Breakfast**

08:20 - 08:30 **2025 Venture Capital Outlook | Opening Remarks**



Kim Furlong
CEO



As we navigate through 2025, the landscape of venture capital continues to evolve amidst challenges such as global conflicts, fluctuating interest rates, and persistent inflation. Despite these hurdles, venture investing has demonstrated resilience, setting new benchmarks and adapting strategies to navigate the shifting market dynamics. We invite you to join us in exploring the venture capital outlook for 2025.

08:30 - 09:15 **“Pathfinders: Venture Capital & Creative Capital & Risk Management” | Panel Session**

We bring together key players from some of the most differentiated and active early & growth stage venture funds. These firms dive deep into their respective investment mandates to give Forum delegates an inside look at how they engage with emerging companies.



09:15 - 10:15 **“Maritime Mavericks: Making Waves In Atlantic Canadian Tech” | Pitch Session**

Top-tier companies from across the Maritimes, representing the high calibre of innovation forged in Atlantic Canada, will take the stage for a short-format live pitch to a feedback panel of seasoned investors.

Panelists:



Companies:



AGROGENE SOLUTIONS



10:15 - 11:00 **Networking Break**

11:00 - 11:30

“Building Tech Corridors: Seizing Opportunities from Canada to Silicon Valley and Beyond” | Fireside Chat



Nicholas Brathwaite
Founder & Managing Partner



With a keen focus on the Canadian tech sector, Nicholas will share his unique perspective from his base in Silicon Valley, discussing why Canada is an attractive market for tech investment. As Celesta Capital expands its focus on developing a thriving deep tech venture ecosystem within Canada, he will explore why now is the perfect time for U.S. investors to look north. In addition, Nicholas will discuss the opportunities and challenges of expanding into global markets,

drawing on Celesta's successful investments in India and Israel. This session is a must-attend for anyone interested in the intersection of cross-border investments, global expansion, and high-growth opportunities beyond the U.S. and Canada.

11:30 - 12:30

Fueling Female Founders: Spotlighting the Next Wave of Women-Led Innovation | Pitch Session

Now in its second year, NBIF's female founder pitch competition showcases five standout pre-seed startups led by women from across Atlantic Canada. Each founder will pitch live to a panel of seasoned investors for a chance to enter due diligence with NBIF for up to \$100,000 in equity investment. This high-impact event highlights the creativity, ambition, and early-stage potential of women entrepreneurs who are building the next generation of game-changing tech companies.



12:30 - 13:30

Networking Lunch

13:30 - 13:50

“Breaking Barriers: Building Canada's First Black-Led VC Fund & Investing in Untapped Markets” | Keynote Speaker



Lise Birikundavyi
Managing Partner



Join Lise Birikundavyi, Managing Partner at BKR Capital, as she shares her journey launching Canada's first Black-led VC fund and uncovering high-potential startups across the country, including the Maritimes. This keynote will provide practical insights to show how inclusive investing is not only purpose-driven but also leverages the power of contrarian investment theory. In this unfiltered conversation, you will learn about how such an arbitrage strategy cultivates a stronger innovation ecosystem beyond its social benefits.

13:50 - 14:20

“Meet the Investors: Funding & Scaling Deep Tech” | Panel Session

This panel brings together leading deep tech investors and a startup founder to explore the opportunities and challenges of building and funding breakthrough technologies. From securing investment to overcoming commercialization hurdles, gain insights on what makes a startup investment-ready and how to scale successfully in this complex ecosystem. Whether you're an investor or a founder, this session will provide actionable insights on funding, scaling, and thriving in the deep tech ecosystem.



14:20 - 15:00

Networking Break

15:00 - 16:00

“East Coast Disruptors: The Rise of Atlantic Canada’s Tech Scene” | Pitch Session

Top-tier companies from across the Maritimes, representing the high calibre of innovation forged in Atlantic Canada, will take the stage for a short-format live pitch to a feedback panel of seasoned investors from across North America.

Panellists:



Companies:



Cyan Analytics



16:00 - 16:30

“Exploring Tech and Talent: Building Culture in the Startup Ecosystem” | Fireside Chat

In a challenging market, the pressures of scaling a startup can often impact the backbone of a business - its people. How do these market pressures affect a founder’s ability to facilitate a strong culture that can attract and retain talent? Join Lorie McCarthy, VP, Banking, RBCx and Bryce Tully, CEO and Co-Founder, innerlogic, as they explore the intersection of culture and capital, with actionable insights on how founders can find a balance amidst an evolving economic climate for tech and innovation in Canada.



16:30 - 18:30

Legendary Taste of Nova Scotia Lobster Bash Networking Reception



Thursday June 5, 2025

Halifax, Nova Scotia

08:00 - 09:00

Hot Networking Breakfast

09:00 - 09:45

“Strategics & VCs: Funding, Partnerships, and the Road to Exit” | Panel Session

In today’s competitive venture landscape, alignment with the right partners—financial and strategic—can define a company’s trajectory. This panel brings together leading voices from both venture capital and corporate investment arms to explore where the opportunity lies, how tech adoption is driving investment theses, and what founders need to know to stand out.



09:45 - 10:45

“Coastal Catalysts: Driving Innovation in Atlantic Canadian Tech” | Pitch Session

Top-tier companies from across the Maritimes, representing the high calibre of innovation forged in Atlantic Canada, will take the stage for a short-format live pitch to a feedback panel of seasoned investors from across North America.

Panellists:



Companies:



10:45 - 11:30

Networking Break

11:30 - 12:00

“Navigating Agri-Food Investment: Insights from CFIN’s FoodTech Report” | Panel Session
Canada’s agri-food sector is evolving rapidly, driven by innovation, investment, and shifting consumer demands. In this session, CFIN CEO Dana McCauley leads a dynamic discussion on the key findings from CFIN’s FoodTech Report and what they mean for the future of agri-food investment in Canada. Panelists will explore emerging trends, funding opportunities, and the challenges shaping the sector, offering valuable insights for entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders looking to capitalize on the next wave of food innovation.



12:00 - 12:20

“Accelerating Success: How Canadian Startups are Scaling Globally with CTA” | Panel Session
Discover how the Canadian Technology Accelerators (CTA) are helping startups break into global markets. This panel will feature founders who have completed CTA programming, sharing their experiences scaling internationally and how the program provided critical support. Learn how CTA connects Canadian companies to mentorship, market insights, and investors, helping them navigate the challenges of global expansion.



12:20 - 13:20

Networking Lunch

13:20 - 13:50

“Aligned Capital: Know Your Options in Uncertain Times” | Keynote Speaker



Delilah Panio
VP, U.S. Capital Formation



As a Canadian capital markets expert based in Southern California, Delilah has a unique perspective on advising Canadian and U.S. companies from bootstrap to IPO. She will provide an overview of North American capital raising options and introduce the idea of “aligned capital” and how to determine the right capital for your company.

13:50 - 14:00

Closing Remarks

Reserve your spot for this outstanding program today!

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Partial Lineup of Alumni

