

2024 Banff Venture Forum



Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2024
Banff, Canada

in Banff Venture Forum

 @BanffVF | #BVF2024

Wednesday October 23, 2024
Banff, Alberta

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07:30 - 08:25 **Check in & Networking Breakfast**

08:25 - 08:30 **Conference Chair Welcome Remarks**



Steven Hnatiuk
Managing Partner



08:30 - 08:45 **Industry Outlook - State of the Ecosystem** | Presentation



08:45 - 09:30 **Meet the Investors - The Opportunity Landscape** | Panel Session

We bring together key players from some of the most differentiated and active venture funds. These leading VCs will dive deep into the opportunities, issues and challenges in today's opportunity environment.



09:30 - 10:30 **Canadian Trailblazers: Unleashing Innovation Across the Nation** | Pitch Session

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



10:30 - 11:15 **Networking Break**



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11:15 - 11:45

Venture Capital, Technology and Climate Risk: Energy in the 21st Century | Keynote Session



Tom Rand
Founding Partner

ARCTERN
VENTURES

Tom brings his trademark focus and clarity to an enormously complex issue – the economic, technical and financial dimensions of climate risk. As global fears over the risk ratchet up alongside increasing turbulent weather systems, the private sector looks at last ready join the fight in earnest. Is that the case, or just more greenwashing? Rand's forthright speaking style takes on the old canards of both left and right politics in a passionate call to arms on climate risk and covers a broad range of subjects – psychology, finance, policy, economics, technology and science.

11:45 - 12:15

"The Greatest Show on Earth - Ag & Food Tech Game Changers" | Panel Session

Positioned at the intersection of Cleantech and Life Sciences, Ag and Food Tech now represents one of the greatest opportunity landscapes in history. Protein Industries Canada will lead us through the remarkable innovations in value-added processing and ingredients, as well as bio industrial processing. Leading investors will also take us through the rapidly evolving innovations in Ag and Food Tech that are incorporating every element of emerging technology - from drones, robots, IoT, lasers, and AI, to genomics, and the microbiome. Canada is uniquely positioned to further cement its global leadership in these arenas.



NATURAL
PRODUCTS
CANADA

CANADIAN
FOOD INNOVATION
NETWORK



12:15 - 13:15

Networking Lunch

13:15 - 13:45

Innovations in Gaming Technology: Shaping the Future of Play | Panel Session

We bring together leading international investors and exited entrepreneurs, from Silicon Valley to Sweden, to showcase cutting-edge advancements driving the future of gaming. Four emerging companies will profile their innovations in ultra-short, three-minute pitches. Our expert panel will challenge the presenters with one question each as a means of showcasing the transformative technologies shaping the gaming landscape.



13:45 - 14:45

Empowering Innovators: Celebrating Women-Led Tech Ventures | Pitch Session

Showcasing Canada's Exceptional Ingenuity, this lineup of high-calibre women-founded tech ventures from various regions of the country will showcase their innovations in a dynamic live pitch session.



14:45 - 15:15

Meet the AI Investors - Exploring the Future of Artificial Intelligence | Panel Session

Join a panel of top investors from some of the most forward-thinking venture funds. These leading VCs will provide a deep dive into their unique investment strategies and share insights into what they seek in AI startups. Get an insider's perspective on the current and future landscape of AI investment opportunities.



Bennett Jones



15:15 - 16:00

Networking Break | Round Table Discussions



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16:00 - 16:30 **Decoding a Decade: Insights & Strategies from Canada's VC Landscape** | Keynote Session



John Rikhtegar
Director, Capital

RBCX

Join us for an exclusive session where RBCx unveils key findings from its forthcoming research report, examining the last decade of venture capital activity in Canada. This session will dive deeper into the data, highlighting pivotal learnings and trends that have shaped the Canadian startup ecosystem. John will guide us through these insights, offering actionable strategies to leverage this knowledge as we navigate the opportunities and challenges of the next decade in venture capital.

16:30 - 18:00 **BVF Networking Reception**

Thursday October 24, 2024 Banff, Alberta

08:00 - 08:55 **Hot Networking Breakfast**

08:55 - 09:00 **Opening Remarks**

09:00 - 09:45 **Meet the Investors - Insights from Leading VCs** | Panel Session

This dynamic panel session gathers top investors from the most innovative and active venture funds, including leaders in corporate venture capital. These industry experts will offer an inside perspective on their investment strategies, sharing what drives their decisions and the emerging opportunities they see in the tech market.

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09:45 - 10:15 **Canada's Innovators: Spotlight on Emerging Talent** | Pitch Session

Discover the cutting-edge innovation happening across Canada as top companies from diverse sectors step into the spotlight. This dynamic pitch session will feature ventures that have graduated from the prestigious Canadian Technology Accelerator (CTA) program, an initiative by Global Affairs Canada's Trade Commissioner Service. These high-growth, high-potential Canadian tech firms have honed their strategies and scaled their operations through the program's intensive support in 12 global innovation centres, including Boston, San Francisco, and Tokyo.

 Canada

Company announcement coming soon!

10:15 - 11:00 **Networking Break** | Round Table Discussions

11:00 - 11:20 **Google Cloud: Catalyzing Canadian Tech Success** | Keynote Session



Robin Orford
Lead - VC Partnerships

 Google

Join Robin for an insightful keynote highlighting Google's pivotal role in supporting Canada's tech ecosystem. This session will explore how Google has supported Canadian startups to scale and succeed, featuring an inspiring success story from a standout company that has thrived with their backing. Gain insights into the strategies and resources that Google brings to the table, and learn how they continue to drive innovation and growth in Canada's vibrant tech landscape.

11:20 - 11:30

VERDEX CAPITAL | Presentation

Verdex Capital (formerly AVAC Group) describes its mission as “advancing Canadian agriculture” for triple-bottom-line outcomes. It looks to invest in ways that achieve strong economic returns with measurable environmental and social impact. Verdex invests directly via its AgTech venture studio, Carrot Ventures, which launched in 2021 to commercialize AgTech innovations applicable to Canadian agriculture. It is one of only a handful of AgTech-focused venture studios globally.



11:30 - 12:00

Brands Investors Love | Keynote Session



Marc Stoiber
CEO



Everyone needs to understand branding. Marc, a seasoned creative director turned brand strategist, shares his journey from leading global ad agencies to founding a sustainability-focused agency, and ultimately becoming a sought-after consultant for startup founders and investors. As he discovered the critical role of brand-building in driving scalable, de-risked growth, Stoiber realized that creativity must be tied to ROI. Learn how his strategies are helping startups secure funding, achieve better exits, and navigate a rapidly changing market.

12:00 - 13:00

Networking Lunch

13:00 - 13:30

Navigating the AI Frontier: Founders' Journeys Through Innovation & Investment | Panel Session

Join us for an insightful panel session that delves into the journeys of AI founders as they navigate the complex landscape of building transformative companies. Our panelists will share candid stories about the headwinds and tailwinds they've encountered, the hurdles they've had to overcome, and the strategies they've employed to attract and secure investors. This discussion will explore the unique challenges and opportunities in the AI space, offering valuable lessons for aspiring entrepreneurs and investors alike.



Bennett Jones



13:30 - 13:50

Charting the Future of Venture Investing & Entrepreneurship | Fireside Chat

Concluding the Banff Venture Forum, join us for a fireside chat that takes a deep dive into the current state of the venture capital ecosystem. Steve Hnatiuk of Lighthouse Equity Partners will sit down with Jérôme Nycz, former EVP at BDC, whose leadership in multiple roles over 20+ years helped shape the industry landscape as we know it today. This session will offer a balanced perspective, acknowledging the challenges and uncertainties that lie ahead while highlighting the opportunities that continue to drive innovation and growth. Closing on a note of optimism and determination, ready to shape the future together.



Steven Hnatiuk
Managing Partner



Jérôme Nycz
Former EVP at
BDC Capital

13:50 - 14:00

Closing Remarks

Reserve your seat today for this outstanding program!

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