

Larry Backman, Senior Advisor – Pure Industrial



Bio – Larry, throughout his 36 years in the environmental field, has advised clients in the commercial, industrial and multi residential real estate industry in understanding and navigating environmental risk and liability, as part of property transactions. Larry acted as the principal on two of the largest residential and Industrial real estate transactions in Canada of over \$2.3 billion across 228 assets. In 2004, Larry joined Pinchin as Vice President responsible for growing its environmental practice. By the early 2020s, Pinchin quickly became the consultant of choice for the delivery of high quality and timely due diligence services across the country. In 2025, Larry joined Pure Industrial as a Senior Advisor responsible for assisting with the review of complex environmental projects.

Kevin French, Vice President, VEI Contracting Inc.



Bio - Mr. French is Vice President of VEI Contracting Inc. and has over 35 years of experience and expertise in the environmental engineering field. Since joining VEI in 2012 (Vertex Environmental Inc. at the time), Kevin has been involved in the design and implementation of remediation and risk management programs involving permeable reactive barriers (PRBs), activated carbon and modified clay adsorptive technologies, in-situ chemical oxidation and reduction (ISCO and ISCR), aerobic and anaerobic biodegradation, air sparging and soil vapour extraction (AS/SVE), etc. in soil, groundwater and fractured bedrock for a variety of environmental contaminants, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) petroleum hydrocarbons (PHCs), chlorinated solvents and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), heavy metals, etc. Kevin previously worked as an environmental consultant, specializing in environment due diligence and risk mitigation, and is also an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and Remedial Action Plan (RAP) design specialist, having worked on hundreds of such projects at sites across Canada. Kevin holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Waterloo, is a Professional Engineer in Ontario and a Qualified Person for ESAs in Ontario.

**Breakfast Panel: Perspectives on Environmental Remediation
Meet the Panelists**

Andy Vanin, Executive Vice President, Business Development – Pinchin Ltd.



Bio - Andy brings over 30 years of engineering consulting experience with a focus on leadership, growth and client relationship management to his role as Executive Vice President, Business Development at Pinchin Ltd.

Andy began his career as a Geotechnical Engineer after earning his Civil Engineering degree from McMaster University. In 2005, he joined Pinchin's Environmental Due Diligence & Remediation group and quickly advanced from Senior Project Manager to Operations Manager. He played a pivotal role in expanding the Mississauga team and enhancing environmental services across Ontario. In 2010, Andy undertook the challenge of establishing the Environmental Due Diligence practice in Pinchin's Hamilton office, growing the office from a team of 7 to over 35 employees and nearly tripling annual revenue. He later led the successful openings of new offices in St. Catharines and Barrie, contributing significantly to Pinchin's regional expansion strategy. As Director of Operations, Andy managed multiple service lines, supported corporate initiatives, and mentored future leaders, all while maintaining a strong focus on client service and technical excellence.

Leonard Griffiths, Partner & Co-Head of Environmental Practice – Bennett Jones



Bio - Leonard is certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a specialist in environmental law. Through his broad-based environmental practice, Len assists clients with corporate transactions including mergers, acquisitions and financing, environmental management systems and litigation. He represents clients before administrative tribunals and defends clients charged with environmental offenses. Len counsels' clients on matters regarding air, water, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, chemical substances management (import, export and use), product liability, occupational health and safety, and a wide range of other regulatory issues. He assists clients domestically and internationally to develop and undertake major projects and transactions. He also conducts environmental assessments and compliance audits and has been involved in the decommissioning and remediation of many facilities and properties (brownfields).

**Breakfast Panel: Perspectives on Environmental Remediation
Meet the Panelists**

Moderator: Kosei Masutani, Director, Asset Management, Pure Industrial and NAIOP
GTA Education Committee Chair

