
SPEAKER

Chris Gordon

Partner, National Leader
People Advisory Services
Tax Canada, EY Canada



ABOUT

Chris is a Partner and National Leader of EY's People Advisory Practice in Canada. The leader of PAS Tax Canada, he leads a diverse team of over 700 professionals, led by 35 partners serving companies across a wide range of services including, Rewards (compensation, pensions, benefits), Mobile Talent (mobility, social security), Immigration (Canadian, US and Global), and Payroll..

Chris provides strategic insight, advice and leadership support for companies sending critical talent to over 150 countries globally. He has advised and served some of the largest Canadian, Global and Fortune100 corporations in his 25+ year career in professional services.

Chris believes that bringing diverse teams and perspectives together to tackle or biggest business and social challenges, leads to better outcomes and solutions. Chris serves on the EY Americas Inclusion Advisory Council, EY Canada Inclusion Advisory Council and EY Canada ESG Committee.

Chris has a passion for entrepreneurship and is Director of the EY Entrepreneurs Access Network (EAN), which helps Black and Indigenous founders in Canada build professional networks, access funding and grow their businesses.

He is devoted husband to Janine and father to two boys and a Tottenham Hotspurs fan (he believes that everyone should live with at least one terrible choice).

SPEAKER

Jad Shimaly

EY Global Managing Partner - Client service, EY



ABOUT

Jad is EY's Global Managing Partner for Client Service. A seasoned executive with nearly 30 years of experience in advancing business performance, Jad brings deep financial and operational acumen to his global leadership position, shaping and implementing an innovative transformation agenda across EY's capabilities and clients. As EY Global Managing Partner - Client Service, Jad leads our four EY service lines - Assurance, Consulting, Strategy and Transactions and Tax - and our Markets organization, ensuring consistent delivery and teaming across EY and an exceptional client experience.

Prior to assuming his current role, Jad held the role as Chair, CEO and Regional Managing Partner at EY Canada - the second fastest-growing EY firm globally - leading a team of 8,000 professionals covering a span of 16 offices across the country. In this role, he focused on bringing our purpose of building a better working world to the forefront to deliver long-term value for our people, clients and communities.

Jad is committed to building diverse teams that deliver innovative concepts, services, solutions, and ways of working, all founded on principles of cooperation, openness, and reliability. Jad is determined that each engagement - whether with our clients, our people or the communities we operate in - presents a chance to create meaningful and enduring impact.

SPEAKER

Lisa Melchior

Founder & Managing Partner, Vertu Capital



ABOUT

Lisa Melchior is the Founder and Managing Partner of Vertu Capital, a private equity firm focused on Canadian technology businesses. With over 25 years of experience in private equity, Lisa has invested \$1.5B in over 30 companies across North America and Europe and through multiple economic cycles. In 2023, Vertu Partners Fund I became Canada's first female-founded private equity fund, supporting the growth of the Canadian technology ecosystem. Vertu has acquired stakes in global technology businesses, including Firmex, Dejero, PathFactory, ActiveState and LumiQ.

Lisa is a recognized thought leader in the technology private equity space, frequently speaking at events hosted by The Canada Club, ACG, With Intelligence, and CVCA. Lisa was named by Maclean's as one of the 100 Most Powerful Canadians 2024 and CVCA's inaugural Woman of Achievement 2023.

Prior to founding Vertu, Lisa was a Managing Director at OMERS Private Equity, where she led the North American Technology group. She started her private equity career at CIBC Capital Partners.

Lisa has served on the boards of several successful public and private technology companies in Canada, the U.S., and the U.K., as well as in the not-for-profit sector. Lisa earned an MBA from York University's Schulich School of Business and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Western Ontario.