

Plenary Panel #1: Opening FPT Plenary Panel: Indigenous Procurement Panel

Catherine Harwood, Assistant Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works, Yukon Government

Catherine Harwood is the Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services in Highways and Public Works. She began working for Yukon government as an engineer-in-training in 1995. Her first eight years were with the Transportation Engineering Branch, mostly as a Bridge Engineer. It was here that Catherine first developed a deep interest in tendering law and procurement policy.

Catherine was most recently the Project Lead for the Procurement Improvement Team, where she has been working to make procurement better across Yukon Government. Prior to that Catherine was the Director of the Procurement Support Centre since its inception in 2013. In her 20 years with HPW – in its various forms – Catherine has always appreciated the professionalism and hard work of her colleagues and the interactions with the private sector.

Catherine was born, raised and educated in Mayo, Yukon. She and her family moved to the Canadian Armed Forces base in Lahr, West Germany as Catherine was entering high school. She then went on to graduate from Monash University in Melbourne with a Bachelor of Engineering degree and returned to the Yukon soon after. Catherine loves dogs, mountain-biking and other adventures.

Ravinder Rakhra, Senior Director Procurement, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Ravinder Rakhra has been with PSPC since 1990 and has worked in the various Branches of the Department including Real Property, the Ethics Directorate, Corporate Services and Human Resources. She is currently the Regional Director Procurement Branch Pacific Region, working with her team to serve clients located in BC and the Yukon.

Ravinder is also the Diversity Champion for the Region and serves as the Regional Mental Health and Wellness Champion for the Acquisitions Program.

Ravinder holds a Bachelor of Commerce, with a Major in Finance, and an MBA from the University of British Columbia. She also holds a Certificate in Conflict Resolution from the Justice Institute of British Columbia and is Prosci Certified as a change management practitioner.

Kim Buksa, Manager, Supply Chain Management, Sustainable and Ethical Procurement, City of Vancouver

Kim Buksa joined the City of Vancouver as the Sustainable and Ethical Procurement (SEP) Manager within Supply Chain Management for the purpose of introducing and implementing Social Procurement while updating and enhancing existing sustainable efforts & practices. This evolution looks beyond what is being purchased to include who is purchased from and their operations. With endorsement from Council and Senior Leadership, this work is being operationalized and governed citywide.

Prior to the City, Kim spent years developing and supporting the social economy in Metro Vancouver and beyond as the lead for Enterprising Non-Profits (ENP), a province wide, multi-funder program that enabled revenue development in community, Indigenous, social and non-profit organizations. Becoming a subject matter expert through this experience, Kim has interacted and collaborated with hundreds of organizations while stewarding dozens of connections between corporations and communities to identify opportunities for sustainable procurement and community benefit.

Kim holds a Bachelor in Commerce from the University of Victoria and a Masters of International Relations from Alliant International University. She is a highly experienced manager with a record of accomplishment in leading, developing and implementing programs and projects, working with and for all levels of government, including Indigenous entities and across various sectors, including telecommunications, education and health care. Her strong business acumen with great communication and public relations skills are essential elements to her ongoing achievements at the City of Vancouver.

Erik Wanless, Executive Director, Procurement Transformation Office, Ministry of Citizens' Services Province of British Columbia

Erik Wanless is the Executive Director, Procurement Transformation within B.C.'s Ministry of Citizens' Services. In this role he leads the implementation of the BC Procurement Strategy, working with partners to advance B.C.'s procurement modernization initiative and transform the way the province does business with the private sector.

With over 15 years of experience within the BC government Erik has focused on public sector transformation. He has successfully directed the development of B.C.'s first strategy to modernize procurement, implemented major legislative and regulatory change in the health sector, and developed business strategy and negotiated some of the Province's largest strategic contracts.

Erik holds a Bachelor of History and a Masters Certificate in Project Management from the University of Victoria.

Concurrent Session #2: Materiel Management Lifecycle Planning – GCSurplus and End of Life Considerations

Julie Balantes, Regional Manager Pacific, GCSurplus, Receiver General and Pension Branch, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Julie Balantes is the Regional Manager of GCSurplus for the Pacific Region located in Langley, BC. She has over 30-years of operational management experience for the Federal Government and over the past 10-years has been working in the field of materiel management with CBSA and GCSurplus. She has extensive experience working with the full range of items that come up for disposal including departmental assets as well as seized and forfeited goods. Julie works closely with the federal materiel management community as an instructor for the Canada School of Public Service specializing in the delivery of materiel management courses. She is passionate about working with government clients and the public buyers to help understand how responsible asset divestiture supports better environmental practices for end of life assets. When Julie is not working her day job at GCSurplus, she is an avid up-cycler and enjoys reusing found treasures into her furniture and design projects.

Concurrent Session #3: The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman (OPO) digs deeper on “Low Dollar Value (LDV) Contracting” and “Dispute Resolution in Vendor Performance Management

Alexander Jeglic, Procurement Ombudsman, Office of the Procurement Ombudsman

In April 3, 2018, Mr. Alexander Jeglic became Canada’s Procurement Ombudsman for a five-year term.

Alex is a lawyer by background and most recently served as General Counsel for Private-Public Partnerships Canada Inc., a federal Crown Corporation, where he was involved in the procurement processes for large infrastructure projects. He previously held positions of increased responsibility in the United States and Canada including at the Canadian Commercial Corporation as Senior Legal Counsel and the Australian Trade Commission as Business Development Manager and International Trade Advisor in Washington (DC). Throughout Alex’s legal and professional career, he has focused primarily on procurement, contracting and dispute resolution which will serve him well as Procurement Ombudsman.

Alex graduated from Carleton University in Ottawa with a Bachelor of Arts (Law), with a concentration in Business Law, in 2000. In 2001, he completed the Cornell Law School Paris Summer Institute program in international and comparative law and in 2003 completed a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in Chicago, Illinois with a certificate in International Law.

Alex has also been teaching procurement law at Carleton University since 2010. Alex and his wife Shelley have four children.

Chelsea Young, Senior Risk Advisor, Office of the Procurement Ombudsman

As Senior Risk Advisor at the Office of the Procurement Ombudsman (OPO), Chelsea leads comprehensive reviews of federal organizations' procurement practices. She also leads OPO's Knowledge Deepening and Sharing initiative, which aims to explore significant and recurring issues in federal procurement.

Prior to joining OPO in 2018, Chelsea provided financial and commercial advisory services to all levels of government in the procurement of complex capital projects while at PPP Canada. Chelsea has also held positions at Infrastructure Canada and the International Development Research Center.

Chelsea is a Certified Internal Auditor and holds an MBA. She is a member of the organizing committees of Women's Infrastructure Network as well as Young Leaders in Infrastructure.

Plenary Session #4: National Ship Building Strategy

Randy Roberts, Director General, Large Ship Construction Sector, Marine Sector, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Mr. Roberts has thirty-five years of procurement and contracting experience in both the Public and Private Sectors, half of which have been in the Marine field. He assumed his current position in 2017 wherein he is responsible for the management of the contracts for Large Non-Combat ships being built for the Canadian Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Navy under Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy.

Mr. Roberts received a Bachelor's Degree in Science from Dalhousie University in 1980 and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Saint Mary's University in 1983. Following graduation he was employed by Saint John Shipbuilding Limited, the Prime Contractor for the Canadian Patrol Frigate project, from 1984 through 1992, where he held progressively more responsible positions in the logistics, project and contract management fields. In 1992, he joined the Federal Department of Public Works and Government Services and was assigned to the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel project where he was responsible for the administration of the logistics, combat systems engineering and mission payload portions of the contract. In 1999 he was assigned to the Canadian Aerospace Training Project office where he was responsible for the management of the Contracted Flying Training and Support contract through which all Canadian Armed Forces pilots are initially trained. In 2005, he returned to shipbuilding transferring to the Joint Support Ship project, as part of the team that was to procure

the new replenishment ships for the Navy. In 2006, he transferred to the Department of National Defence as the Senior Procurement Advisor to the Director General of Aerospace Equipment Program Management and served as the first Director of Aerospace Procurement until 2007. Upon completion of French language training in 2008, he transferred to the Directorate of Materiel Comptrollership as the Manager of the In-Year Capital Equipment Programme. In 2010, he returned to the position of Director of Aerospace Procurement. In 2012, he transferred to the Procurement Services division as the Director of Electronic Systems Procurement where he was responsible for the provision of procurement and finance support to Information Management/Information Technology, Space and Cyber projects.

Mr. Roberts is also a retired Naval Reserve Officer. He held a number of logistics, training, executive and command positions, both full and part-time, during his 38 years of service.

Keynote Session #5: Computers for Schools - Moving Forward

Krista Campbell, Director General, Connected Canada Branch, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

Krista Campbell, Director General, Connected Canada Branch, Krista and her team are responsible for a dozen digital programs and initiatives that help bring broadband connectivity, devices, digital skills training and enhanced digital security to communities, individuals and businesses across Canada. Programs such as Connect to Innovate, Computers for Schools, CanCode, CyberSecure Canada, and others, leverage efforts by the private sector, not-for-profits and other stakeholders to support better digital connectivity for all Canadians, especially those living in rural and remote communities, and those who could use a bit of additional support to fully engage in the digital world.

Concurrent Session #6: TBS Update on the Procurement HR Strategy Initiatives and Certification Program Renewal

Jessica Johnston, Director, Acquired Services and Assets Sector (ASAS) Communities Management Office, Acquired Services & Assets Sector, Office of the Comptroller General

Jessica has been working at the Treasury Board Secretariat for over 12 years. She has been the Director of the ASAS Communities Management Office (CMO) since July 2017. In this position, she has been providing support to help build the capacity of federal government procurement, real property and materiel management functional communities. Previous positions within ASAS include the roles of Chief of Staff to the Assistant Comptroller General and Senior Advisory in the Investment, Project Management and Policy Division. Before joining TBS, Jessica worked in the strategic policy branches of a number of federal departments, such as Agriculture and Agri-food

Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada. Jessica graduated from Carleton University with a Master of Arts in Public Administration and from Queen's University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

Derek Bizewski, Certification Program Manager, ASAS Community Management Office, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

With over twelve years' experience drafting asset management plans, writing policy, handling seized, abandoned and forfeited property, and managing supply chains at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Derek has a very strong grasp on all things Materiel Management and Procurement due to his unique set of job experience. He devotes his time at work to finding ways to support the materiel management and procurement communities and managing the certification program.

Concurrent Session #7: How the Seized Property Management Directorate can Assist in Managing Seized or Sensitive Assets held by Federal/Provincial Governments

Nils Juppe, Liaison Officer, Seized Property Management Directorate, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Nils has over 10 years' experience managing assets seized under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act, Controlled Drugs and Substance Act, Part XII of the Criminal Code and the Cannabis Act, including 6 years as a SPMD Case Officer in which he provided pre-seizure advice, post-seizure management and post forfeiture asset disposal.

In his current role as Liaison Officer, he has spent the last 3 years maintaining and developing stakeholder relationships, providing training to partner organizations, negotiating MOU's and providing support services to SPMD regional cases officers. Nils regularly assists in the development of asset seizing procedures for other Government Agencies which when implemented, allow them to focus on their core mandate.

Concurrent Session #8: Better Buying with the Canadian Collaborative Procurement Initiative

Sean Crossan, Director, FPT and International Relations, OSME, Procurement Branch, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Sean Crossan is the Director of Federal-Provincial-Territorial and International Relations for the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises and Stakeholder Engagement, Acquisitions Program at Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) since July 2015. He has held several Director level positions including Director, Branch Planning and Management Services, Finance and Administration Branch (2010-2015), Director PSPC Strategic Review Team (2009-2010), Director Communities and Partnerships, ESDC

(2008-09), and Director, Financial Policy, PSPC (2007-08). Sean is a graduate of the Accelerated Economic Training Program, the Institute on Governance, Executive Leadership Development Program and has over 29 years of experience in the federal public service. Sean obtained a Co-operative Masters in Public Administration Degree from Carleton University (1992) and a Co-operative Bachelors in Environmental Studies Degree (Urban Planning) from the University of Waterloo (1988).

Robert O'Neill, Executive Director, Procurement Services Branch, British Columbia Government

Robert O'Neill is the Executive Director at the Procurement Services Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Citizen's Services since October 2018. He has also held several Executive Director positions with the BC Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development and the BC Public Service. He has been working in the BC government since 2005. Robert holds a Master in Business Administration degree from Royal Roads University (2007).

Concurrent Session #9: Accessible Procurement

Michael Conway, Associate Director, Strategic Policy Planning, Management and Interpretation, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Mike is an Associate Director with the Strategic Policy Sector of PSPC's Acquisitions Program.

Mike first joined PWGSC as a student in 2001 supporting the development and delivery of project management training for procurement officers, and has remained with the departments except for a 2-year stint with Canada Mortgage and Housing where he played an important role in support of early work on the design and testing of Net Zero Housing.

Mike's roles in PSPC have ranged from selling surplus moveable assets such as RCMP vehicles and fighter jets, mining government spend and contract data to enable more strategic public procurement, engaging suppliers and removing barriers for SMEs looking to do business with the government of Canada, to today leading PSPC's procurement modernization efforts to achieve improved socioeconomic outcomes for Canadians including greening, innovation and accessibility.

Plenary Session #10: Agile and Innovation Procurement: A PSPC Perspective

Jonathan Vinet, Manager, Agile and Innovation, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Jonathan Vinet, Manager of the Innovative Solution Canada program (ISC), Agile and Innovation procurement at Public Services and Procurement Canada. His team is responsible for the non-military R&D, the ISC Procurement, the agile procurement initiative and life and earth Sciences. Jonathan has worked on launching the AI source list and on developing the first multi-phase procurement strategy requirement with the Canadian School of Public Service. Jonathan has led the agile procurement team for the past 2.5 years and had conducted multiple pilots. Jonathan has a degree in business from the Université du Québec en Outaouais, specialized in entrepreneurship, has over 10 years of buying IM/IT solutions and more than 5 years of buying professional services (including R&D and Innovative solution).

Syed Hasan, Manager, Innovative Procurement Methodologies Division, STAMMs, Procurement Branch, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Syed Hassan is the Manager, Innovation Procurement Methodologies at Public Services and Procurement Canada. He is currently managing innovative procurement initiatives including the Artificial Intelligence Source List and is developing a procurement vehicle for innovation hubs. Syed was the Manager of the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises National Program with Public Services and Procurement Canada, and has worked at a number of government departments including Indigenous Services Canada and the Department of National Defence.

Guylaine Carrière, Director, Procurement Modernization, Shared Services Canada

Guylaine Carrière is the Director of Procurement Modernization at Shared Services Canada. An Engineer by training, for nearly 20 years she has applied her talent for innovation and process improvement to improving federal government procurement. Guylaine is a passionate advocate of Agile and is always on the lookout for opportunities to partner, experiment and innovate using Agile approaches in the federal procurement space. She currently sits on the CIPMM Board of Directors.