



North to Alaska



Our Speakers



Honorable Preston Manning

Founder of the Reform Party of Canada

Preston Manning tirelessly championed the cause of democratic and political reform throughout his impressive career as one of Canada's great visionaries. His presentations provide a dynamic and substantive discussion of both current issues and an outlook for the future, all imbued with a surprising dose of humour that you might not expect from a politician. A reformer at heart, Mr. Manning is right at home challenging the status quo and conventional thinking.

Serving as a Member of the Canadian Parliament from 1993 to 2001, Mr. Manning founded two political parties—the Reform Party of Canada, and the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance—both of which became the official Opposition in the Canadian Parliament. He served as Leader of the Opposition from 1997 to 2000; in 2007, he was made a Companion of the Order of Canada. Currently, he is a member of the Privy Council and President and CEO of the Manning Centre for Building Democracy—a national not-for-profit organization (guided by conservative principles) that supports research, training, and communications initiatives to achieve a more democratic society in Canada. He is also a member of the Alberta Order of Excellence.

Prior to entering politics, Mr. Manning owned and operated a management-consulting firm, which specialized in long-range planning and communications within the energy sector. He has published two books: *The New Canada*, and *Think Big*. He has also served as a Senior Fellow of the Canada West Foundation, a Senior Fellow of the Fraser Institute, and a Distinguished Visitor at both the University of Calgary and the University of Toronto.

Mr. Manning writes, speaks, and teaches on a variety of subjects, including the revitalization of democracy; present and future economic and political issues; Canadian conservatism; “making markets work”; integrating economic development and environmental conservation; strengthening relations between the scientific and political communities; and the management of the interface between faith and politics.

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Honorable Marc Luiken – Commissioner Governor’s Cabinet – Alaska

Transportation and Public Facilities

Marc Luiken serves as the Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Under his direction, the department is responsible for the planning, design and construction, as well as the maintenance and operation of Alaska’s transportation system, public buildings and facilities.

He previously served as the department’s Commissioner from December 2010 to October 2012; a position he took after serving as DOT’s Deputy Commissioner for Aviation. Most recently, Commissioner Luiken was employed as a project manager and performance coach with RLG international, a consulting firm supporting the oil industry in Alaska with ConocoPhillips and BP Exploration Alaska.

Prior to his public service to the State of Alaska, Luiken served 29 years with the U.S. Air Force, retiring June 1, 2010. His career as an Air Force fighter pilot spanned the globe with multiple assignments in the United Kingdom and Germany, and an assignment in Japan. He is combat veteran with service in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Joint Forge and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Commissioner Luiken holds a bachelor’s in Human Factor’s Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy; a master’s degree in Management from Troy State University and a master’s in Strategic Studies from Air University in Alabama. He is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives and a member of the Air Force Association.

He lives in Anchorage with his wife Suzanne. They have five children; each of whom are Alaska residents.

Boards and Commissions Appointments

Gasline Development Corporation Board of Directors, Alaska
Railroad Corporation, Board of Directors of the Alaska

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Glen Hodgson

International Economist and Author

International economist and author Glen Hodgson has over 35 years of experience in global and Canadian macro-economics, international trade and finance, fiscal and tax policy, and other “big picture” topics. He is the first-ever Senior Fellow at The Conference Board of Canada, after spending twelve years as the Board’s Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist.

Glen’s career has spanned the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington D.C., the federal Department of Finance, Export Development Canada (EDC), as well as the Conference Board of Canada. He has travelled the world and Canada as a financial negotiator, economic thinker, and advisor to governments and international organizations. He has published two books, one on the 2008 global financial crisis, and the other on the business economics of pro sports. He has written over 350 reports, briefings and articles, shares regular commentary in the Globe and Mail, and delivers many speeches and presentations each year to clients.

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Matt Vickers (Gunaatsk)

G7G Railway Corporation

Matt specializes in establishing links in cross-cultural business environments. He has a successful track record of matching Aboriginal with non-Aboriginal potential business partners. Matt's in-depth knowledge of the Aboriginal market stems from his First Nation roots (Tsimshian / Heiltsuk & Haida) and his extensive work with Aboriginal communities in areas of organizational reviews; business plan development; feasibility studies; roles and responsibility training for elected leaders and staff; five-year funding agreements; policy development; board training, as well as goals and objectives setting sessions.

Matt's dedication to institutions of higher learning includes: a founding board member of the University of Victoria's Administration of Aboriginal Government certificate program; the University of British Columbia's advisory board for their Bachelor of Commerce program and a founding member of the Chinook Program; Simon Fraser University's Presidents Advisory Board and the Banff Centre's Advisory Council as well as Head of Faculty for their Principles and Practice of Good Governance Program since 2000. Matt has been recognized with several awards for his performance in business and for his passionate support of diversity in the workplace.

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