

Launch Event - October 28 & 31, 2022

Day 1 Speakers Bio

Sahar Safaie M.Eng

Sage On Earth Consulting Ltd.

BIOGRAPHY

Sahar Safaie is Climate and Disaster Management Specialist and founder of Sage On Earth Consulting. She has more than 17 years of experience in Public and Private sector in Canada and internationally. Equipped with a strong technical background and years of exposure to policy and governance challenges of disaster and climate risk management at various levels, Sahar has a solid and broad understanding of multi-hazard risk assessment and disaster risk management. Her talent in strategic analysis of complex systems and developing consensus-based solutions has always been recognized and utilized by various employers and clients.

Sahar designed and led the development of the Resilience Pathways Report and co-authored the Summary for Policy Makers.

Among the highlights of her work are the coordinating the UN GAR15 global multi-hazard risk assessment and leading three guidelines for United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR): Promoting synergy and alignment between climate change adaptation and disaster reduction in the context of National Adaptation Plans (2021), Words into Action Guideline on National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2019), Words into Action Guideline on National Disaster Risk Assessment (2017).

Prior to founding Sage On Earth Consulting, Sahar had worked at various international entities in the field of risk modeling and risk management such as Risk Management Solutions, The World Bank, Global Earthquake Model Foundation, and UNDRR. She has been collaborating with Associated Engineering Strategic Advisory Services since June 2022.



Nicky Hastings

Geohazard Risk Project Lead, Natural Resources Canada

BIOGRAPHY

Nicky Hastings is the project lead for the geohazard risk team, a research project within the Public Safety Geoscience Program at Natural Resources Canada.

Over the last 13 years, she has been involved in developing and adapting risk assessment methods to assess earthquake and flood risks in Canada. Nicky works closely with internal and external partners to better understand how scientific knowledge can inform decision-making. She currently leads a coastal flood project that brings together researchers and practitioners to share knowledge and expertise supporting disaster risk reduction strategies for coastal storm surge, sea-level rise and tsunami risks.



Sonia Talwar PhD

Director – Pacific Division, Geological Survey of Canada

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Sonia Talwar is the Director of the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), Pacific Region, where she leads a dedicated team of researchers and scientists interested in seismology, marine geology, and risk assessment. Sonia leads the GSC's research programs in natural hazards & risk and climate change geoscience. As a researcher, Sonia has advanced science and technology processes to support decision-making and policy analysis in natural hazard risk, climate change and groundwater management for Natural Resources Canada since 1998. She managed the design of innovation programming for Western Economic Diversification Canada. She has also worked as a Director with NRCan's Indigenous Partnerships Office-West, a team dedicated to relationship building with BC Indigenous communities to advance their resource-related economic development priorities. Sonia holds a doctoral degree in Geography from the University of British Columbia with prior degrees from the University of Edinburgh and McGill University. Sonia enjoys hiking and skiing in the mountains of BC with her family and friends



Murray Journey PhD

Emeritus Scientist, Natural Resources Canada

BIOGRAPHY

Murray has spent the last forty years exploring the geological architecture and evolution of mountain systems in western Canada, and the ways in which communities interact with this landscape in terms of sustainable land use and disaster resilience planning.

Research activities with the Geological Survey of Canada ranged from field-based investigations of regional tectonic processes that drive crustal deformation and related earthquake hazards in Western Canada to computer-based modelling of earthquake risk and risk reduction strategies.

Recent outputs include the development of National Physical Exposure and Social Vulnerability models to assess multi-hazard threat at local and regional scales; and the development of a National Earthquake Risk model to inform disaster resilience planning in accordance with policy and technical implementation guidelines established as part of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (United Nations, 2015: SFDRR). Both modelling frameworks utilize integrated risk assessment methods and emerging best practices of risk governance to help inform a more holistic and empowering view of natural hazard threat and earthquake risk in Canada.

Always up for an adventure, Murray is currently based in Squamish, BC and enjoys exploring the backcountry and playing music with friends and family.



Kari Tyler MEd

User Engagement and Training Specialist, Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium

BIOGRAPHY

Kari Tyler is the user engagement and training specialist with the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium in Victoria, BC. She is a resilience expert and adult educator. Kari completed a Masters in Adult Education and Community Development at the University of Toronto and has been working in climate change resilience and adaptation since 2011. Before joining PCIC she worked in climate change adaptation in provincial governments in Alberta and B.C., and as a consultant internationally.



Matthew Godsoe DSocSci

Director of the Resilience and Economic Integration Division at Public Safety Canada

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Matthew Godsoe is the Director of the Resilience and Economics Integration Division at Public Safety Canada. He has held a number of scientific, policy, and executive positions within Public Safety Canada and Defence Research and Development Canada. His research interests are focused on scalable policy interventions that increase whole-of-society disaster resilience.

Dr. Godsoe is former technical rescue instructor, Search and Rescue volunteer and wilderness guide who spends as much time with his family outdoors as possible.



Kathryn Forge MPA

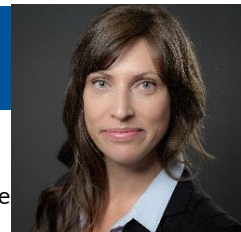
Executive Lead, Disaster Risk Reduction – Emergency Management BC

BIOGRAPHY

Kathryn Forge is the Executive Lead, Disaster Risk Reduction and leads EMBC's division responsible for disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation, and strategic reviews on behalf of the Province. In this role, Kathryn provides strategic direction to provincial disaster risk management policy, planning, training, exercising, cross-government business continuity management, strategic reviews to reduce future risk, and disaster mitigation strategy and funding programs to support communities in mitigating current and future risk to disasters.

Kathryn has held previous roles in emergency management and national security with the provincial and federal governments, including leading interagency strategic planning for catastrophic, health emergency management, intelligence analysis implementing the post-9/11 national security policy, and managing the operations centre of a Maritime Coastal Defense Vessel with the Royal Canadian Navy.

In recognition of her achievements, she has received the federal Deputy Minister's Achievement Award for leadership, the national Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award, and the Pacific Federal Council Community Contribution Award for extraordinary community and public service.



Lori D. Daniels PhD

Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Lori Daniels is a Professor of Forest Ecology in the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, where she directs the [Tree-Ring Lab at UBC](#). Lori investigates the impacts of natural and human disturbances and climate change on forests. With her research team, she has on-going projects on wildfires, forest dynamics, and social-ecological resilience to climate change across British Columbia. Her enduring partnerships with local, provincial, and national governments, environmental organizations, forest management companies, community forests, and First Nations ensure her scientific advances are translated to active conservation, restoration and management.

She contributed to the Blueprint for Wildland Fire Science in Canada and served as a member of the Canadian Wildfire Strategy Implementation Team and the NSERC-Canada Wildfire Research Network. Since 2015, she has given more than 200 media interviews on wildfires and their impacts on forests and communities. She is among the 150 Canadian Scientists recognized in 2017 for research shaping new frontiers and making our world a better place (#150Scientists).

She was acknowledged as a Women Leader in international fire science research in 2018, received the 2019 Canadian Institute of Forestry Scientific Achievement Award and 2022 James J. Parsons Distinguished Career in Biogeography Award from the American Association of Geographers.



Caroline Jackson

Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems and Biodiversity, District of North Vancouver

BIOGRAPHY

Caroline is the Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems and Biodiversity at the District of North Vancouver where her team works in partnership with departments across the organization to advance the District's response to the climate and ecological emergency. Caroline holds a B.Sc. in Biology and Computer Science from Simon Fraser University and a M.Sc. in Zoology from the University of British Columbia. She has over 20 years of experience working in the municipal, provincial, federal, and non-profit environmental sectors.



Jeff O'Driscoll P.Eng., IRP

Infrastructure Division Manager, Associated Engineering

BIOGRAPHY

Jeff is a professional engineer with over 30 years of experience in consulting engineering related to the design, construction, and operations of infrastructure. In recent years Jeff has become a leader in assessing climate change resilience on infrastructure and has shared this knowledge across Canada and internationally. Jeff is an associate with the Climate Risk Institute and holds the designation of Infrastructure Resilience Professional (IRP).

Jeff is the Infrastructure Division Manager for Associated Engineering's Winnipeg office and is a member of Associated Engineering's Climate Change Leadership Group.



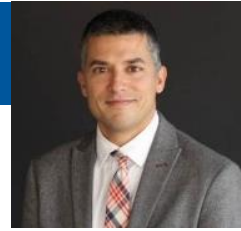
Ryan Schwartz MES

Director, Critical Infrastructure Policy and Analysis, Public Safety Canada

BIOGRAPHY

Ryan Schwartz is the Director of Critical Infrastructure Policy and Analysis in the National and Cyber Security Branch at Public Safety Canada. His responsibilities include the National Strategy and Action Plan for Critical Infrastructure, the Regional Resilience Assessment Program, and the Virtual Risk Analysis Cell, which conducts impact assessments across Canada's ten critical infrastructure sectors.

He has worked on climate change adaptation policy at Environment and Climate Change Canada and on energy policy and climate change impacts and adaptation research at Natural Resources Canada. He has a Master of Environmental Studies degree in geography, with a focus on climate change impacts and adaptation, from the University of Waterloo. His undergraduate degree is in geography, from Wilfrid Laurier University.



Michelle Revesz P.Eng

Integrated Sewer and Drainage Planning Branch Manger, City of Vancouver

BIOGRAPHY

For almost 20 years, Michelle has worked as a water-centric engineer, working in academia, consulting engineering, and in the public sector. Currently she is the City of Vancouver's Integrated Sewer and Drainage Planning Manager, where she is responsible for the City's sewer and rainfall monitoring program, coastal and pluvial flood planning, and developing sewer and drainage utility servicing plans that respond to development, climate change and operational needs. Prior to joining the City of Vancouver, Michelle was a consulting engineer for more than 13 years, specializing in utility planning, flood management, and water conservation. In addition, Michelle is a director on the British Columbia Water and Waste Association Board.



Mike Guité, RPF, PLEng

Manager, Transmission Asset Planning, BCHydro

BIOGRAPHY

Michael Guité is the Manager of Transmission Asset Planning at BC Hydro. Mike is a Registered Professional Forester and a Professional Licencee in Engineering. He has been with BC Hydro since 2004, starting his career in transmission vegetation and rights of ways management, later moving into infrastructure asset management, and also since 2019 has been working with the transmission system planning team.

