

Life Sciences and ICT in the Toronto Region: R&D, Commercialization and Human Resource Trends

**Wednesday, November 24, 2004, 8:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Ontario Heritage Centre, 10 Adelaide Street East**

Speakers' Biographies

Kyle Benham, Director, Business Development and Retention, Economic Development Division, City of Toronto

Kyle Benham is currently the Director of the Business Development and Retention unit within Toronto's Economic Development Division. After joining the City of Toronto in 1989 as a community planner he has since undertaken a wide range of responsibilities as a Senior Economic Development Officer, Manager of the Economic Development Division's Central Field Office and Manager of the Sectors and Strategic Partnerships unit.

The Business Development and Retention unit has a client base of about 35,000 business. Business Development and Retention focuses on ensuring that Toronto companies can operate effectively and efficiently within the city, facilitating the implementation of their expansion plans and developing and promoting the key clusters of the economy. The unit acts as a liaison between the business community and the City with respect to policy and program development. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Science in Planning degree from the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Economic Development Council of Ontario (EDCO) and the Ontario Professional and Planners Institute/Canadian Institute of Planners.

Marie Gravel, Director, Economic Analysis and Information, Ontario Region, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Marie Gravel received an Honours B.A. in Economics from York University in 1976, followed by an M.B.A. with concentration in Economics and Finance in 1979. Since 1978 she has worked in various capacities as an economic analyst with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and its predecessor departments. Much of her professional work has focused on occupational labour markets and labour market projections. Among her professional credits are participation in the United States Department of Labour Training for Labour Market Analysts and the 2003 Toronto OECD Conference on Vocational Guidance and Public Policy. As Director of Economic Analysis and Information for Ontario Region, Marie's responsibilities include economic analysis, evaluation and regional labour market information functions in Ontario region. Currently she serves as a member of the Forum of Labour Market Ministers Working Group on Labour Market Information.

Joanne E. Harack, Ph.D., Vice President, Human Resources and Corporate Communications, Affinium Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Harack joined Affinium Pharmaceuticals as Vice President, Human Resources and Corporate Communications in November 2000. The author of numerous articles on organization development, she was previously Vice President, Human and Organization Development, MDS Diagnostic Sector, and Vice President, Human Resources, Connaught Laboratories Limited (now Aventis Pasteur).

Dr. Harack is currently Chair of the Board of Canadians for Health Research, Vice Chair of the Biotechnology Human Resource Council of Canada (BHRC), and a member of the Government Relations Committee of BIOTECanada. Dr. Harack is a graduate of Indiana University and received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto.

Robert Horwood, Executive VP, Information Technology Association of Canada

A graduate of McGill University, Robert Horwood's early career began with positions as a programmer, and an operations research analyst at ALCAN. He held the post Chief Systems Programmer at the Université de Montréal and was head of the Computer Systems Division for the National Energy Board in Ottawa.

Robert was the co-founder and President of Computel Systems Ltd., Canada's first computer stock to be listed on the TSE. When Computel was acquired by Royal Trust, Robert became its Vice-President, Information Systems and continued as President of Computel.

Later Robert was also the founder and President of Access ATM Network Inc. a company which was also listed on the TSE and which introduced the concept of shared Automated Banking Machines in retail locations in Canada under the name Magicbanc.

Robert is the President of ITAC Ontario and is a past National President of the Canadian Information Processing Society.

Kenneth W. Knox, CEO, MaRS Discovery District

Throughout his 27-year career in the Ontario Government, including six years as a Deputy Minister, Ken has always been a strong supporter of the use of science and innovation in meeting the challenges and opportunities of the future. He believes that Ontario can be the best North American jurisdiction for research, development and innovation, and that the Province will benefit from the jobs and prosperity they bring.

Since its inception in 2000, Ken has been working to breathe life into the MaRS project and other initiatives that share the mandate to implement a culture of innovation fostered by the Ontario Government. The Innovation Institute of Ontario, of which Ken is the President, provides the link and administrative support for these initiatives (Ontario Innovation Trust, Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund, Ontario Genomics Institute, Ontario Cancer Research Network, Cancer Research Institute of Ontario). He also sits on the Board of Directors of the Bio Council and the Ontario Science and Innovation Council.

Ken lives on a 300-acre farm north of Oshawa. Together with his daughter they specialize in using the farm to support educational agriculture programs and in hosting events aimed at increasing the public's awareness of the importance of agriculture.

Geoffrey C. Mitchinson, Vice President, Public Affairs, GlaxoSmithKline

As Vice President Public Affairs for GlaxoSmithKline, one of Canada's largest pharmaceutical companies, Geoffrey Mitchinson leads a division responsible for a wide variety of strategic initiatives and public policy issues. He oversees areas including: government affairs and public policy strategies, policy research and analysis, corporate communications and public relations, stakeholder and community affairs.

Geoff has applied a solid industry background in marketing, sales management, strategy development, government affairs, and public policy to several challenging situations; he is known for an ability to lead a team, articulate its goals, focus its objectives and drive its projects forward to completion. He is recognized for innovation in strategic planning, structuring effective teams, and building leading edge marketing programs that have achieved strong and sustainable results.

A graduate of Carleton University with an Honours BA in Public Administration, Geoff also has undertaken post-graduate business training at the University of Western Ontario and at Stanford University's Executive Development Program, which draws top executives from around the world.

Graham Sibthorpe, President, Graytek Management Inc.

Graham C. Sibthorpe is a well-rounded executive with over 35 years of business experience, including more than 30 years of progressive management experience. Much of his career has been at the forefront of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector where he has held senior line and project management positions as well as providing expertise to senior executives on a consulting basis. He has worked for a leading computer services organization, a major public utility and an international computer vendor.

Graham is an action oriented individual with considerable experience in Business Development, Strategic and Operational Planning, ICT Policy Development, Business Assessment, Business Plan Development, Organizational Development, Marketing, Product Management, ICT Planning and Business Partnering.

Graham understands all aspects of a successful ICT company and is particularly adept at initiating activities to stimulate growth and profitability. He also has extensive software development experience and has managed many R&D projects in which he also provided architectural leadership. This allows him to rapidly understand technical issues and effectively communicate the business implications to senior executives. More recently he has been engaged in major information infrastructure initiatives in Canada and Internationally. In this regard, he has been providing advice to government and industry regarding ICT as an enabler of overall socio-economic development.

Graham is a former Director of the Information Technology Association of Canada and is an acknowledged authority with respect to the ICT sector. He has been an invited guest speaker at a number of major conferences, including a regional Commonwealth sponsored IT for development conference in Jamaica and a National IT Policy Forum in South Africa. He has written Financial Post articles on a variety of subjects.