

Andrew Scheer announces prominent Canadians to lead initiative to slash corporate welfare

Biographical details of co-chairs

Kevin Falcon is British Columbia's former Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance. Kevin is currently the Executive Vice President of Anthem Properties and works on the capital side of the business, based out of the organization's Vancouver office.

Kevin served for twelve years in various senior cabinet positions in the BC government prior to his decision to retire in August 2012. As Minister of State for Deregulation, Falcon led the BC government's successful effort to reduce unnecessary red tape by more than 40 per cent in government's first mandate. He further served for six years as Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, overseeing the largest transportation capital program in BC history.

During his time as Minister of Health, he led initiatives to improve productivity in the public health care system, such as Patient Focused Funding, supply chain consolidation amongst Health Authorities and support for population-based lifestyle and dietary changes. As Minister of Finance, he worked closely to promote BC's financial strengths amidst great global uncertainty, while maintaining the province's AAA credit rating.

Prior to his public career, Kevin was Vice President of Northwest Investment Properties and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Simon Fraser University and his real estate education from the University of British Columbia.

Yves Desjardins-Siciliano is the former president and CEO of VIA Rail Canada. During his five years in the position, he helped turn the company around after 20 years of decreasing ridership and revenue, and limited capital investment. Yves spearheaded the development and implementation of a strategic plan that increased ridership by nearly 30 per cent, boosted revenues by nearly 40 per cent, and improved customer satisfaction and employee engagement.

He negotiated and secured a historic investment of \$1.5 billion by the Government of Canada for a new fleet of trains for the Quebec-Windsor corridor. Yves established important relationships with other railways around the world in his position of chairman of the Union Internationale des Chemins de fer (North America region) and as a board member of the Railway Association of Canada. He also positioned the corporation as a leader in diversity and inclusion, including improving accessibility services, fostering reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and supporting military personnel.

Yves holds a law degree from the Université de Montréal, and was called to the Barreau de Québec in 1981. Prior to joining VIA Rail Canada, he held a series of executive positions at subsidiaries of IBM Canada and BCE/Bell. From 1989-1991, he served as the chief of staff to the Minister of Labour and Minister of State for Transport.