



# LDEMTL

LEBANESE DIASPORA ENERGY-NORTH AMERICA

*NextGen Vibe*

MONTREAL – CANADA  
15 > 16 SEPTEMBER 2018

## S.E. MINISTRE GEBRAN BASSIL

MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES  
ÉTRANGÈRES ET DES ÉMIGRÉS



Chers Compatriotes,

J'ai le grand plaisir de vous retrouver lors de la 3<sup>e</sup> édition de la «LDE de l'Amérique du Nord – LDE Montréal». Cette édition se caractérise par son thème NextGen Vibe qui y sera particulièrement mis en relief par un volet spécialement dédié aux talents émergents avec leurs idées innovatrices, leurs aspirations et leur esprit d'entrepreneur. Je vous encourage à promouvoir continuellement le Liban auprès de nos leaders de demain, tout en renforçant leurs points d'attaches à la terre de leurs ancêtres.

Depuis son lancement à Beyrouth en 2014, la LDE a rassemblé, au Liban et sur tous les continents, des dizaines de milliers de nos citoyens du monde ayant déployé leurs ailes bien au-delà du pays des Cèdres, sans jamais oublier les solides racines libanaises qui les y relient. Saisissez l'occasion qui se présente aujourd'hui lors de cette expérience inédite qui regroupera une audience dynamique, des experts et de grands entrepreneurs, ainsi que les hauts représentants des secteurs économiques, culturels et politiques libanais et nord-américains. Ce serait l'opportunité idéale de revivre notre culture libanaise au cœur d'une ville francophone vibrante de l'Amérique du Nord.

Bienvenue à LDE Montréal 2018!

## H.E. MINISTER GEBRAN BASSIL

MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS & EMIGRANTS

Fellow Lebanese

It is a great pleasure to meet you all during the 3rd edition of the Lebanese Diaspora Energy – LDE North America – LDE Montreal. This edition will be characterized by its NextGen Vibe theme that will give the spotlight to the emerging talent with their innovative ideas, aspirations and entrepreneurial spirit. I encourage you to keep promoting Lebanon to our young professionals, the leaders of tomorrow, by strengthening their ties to the land of their ancestors.

Since its launching in Beirut 2014, LDE has gathered and connected, in Lebanon and around the globe, thousands of those incredible citizens of the world just like you, whose wings carried them well beyond the Lebanese territory, while their roots remained forever strongly attached to the Land of the Cedars.

During this edition, you will live an exceptional experience with a dynamic audience of youth, experts, entrepreneurs, as well as high representatives of the economic, cultural and political sectors in Lebanon and in North-America. Seize the opportunity to dive into the intense Lebanese culture in a North-American city famous for its French vibe.

Welcome to LDE Montreal 2018!

## S.E. M. FADI ZIADEH

AMBASSADEUR DU LIBAN  
AU CANADA



Distingués invités,

La « Lebanese Diaspora Energy » nous rassemble une fois de plus lors de sa troisième édition Nord-Américaine et nous permet de plonger dans la richesse de notre héritage culturel en terre d'accueil, tout en profitant de précieux échanges avec chacun et chacune d'entre vous. Avec le thème « NextGen Vibe » de cette édition canadienne, nous avons surtout tenu à souligner la confiance absolue que nous avons dans les capacités de nos jeunes, ces bâtisseurs de l'avenir qui font face aux multiples défis du siècle, armés d'un solide bagage de versatilité, d'intégrité et surtout d'une incroyable diversité culturelle qui leur permet de performer et de briller dans tous les environnements géographiques.

Why "NextGen Vibe"? Because young generation is at the forefront of change and innovation, and many have the spirit to make things happen. They just need to be given the networks and the mentoring to excel. Our NextGen are going to change the world with new products, new ideas and new ways of thinking. If empowered, they can transform our planet for the better.

Trust our Millennials and be amazed by their "NextGen Vibe"!

Welcome to LDE Canada!

## S.E. M. ANTOINE EID

CONSUL GÉNÉRAL DU LIBAN  
AU QUÉBEC



Mesdames, Messieurs,

Accueillir à Montréal la troisième édition de la « Lebanese Diaspora Energy de l'Amérique du Nord » est certainement un beau défi que nous avons souhaité relever en équipe. En effet, en joignant les forces et les idées, s'inspirant de l'incroyable esprit entrepreneur de cette brillante jeunesse libanaise qui tient une place principale au cœur du thème de la LDE Montréal, nous avons pu réaliser aujourd'hui ce beau rendez-vous l'innovation, de la créativité et de la « Libanité » sur sol québécois. Je vous souhaite la bienvenue à Montréal, cette merveilleuse ville qui rassemble un nombre très important de nos compatriotes. Ayant été classée meilleure ville universitaire au monde en 2017 et reconnue également comme la « ville la plus intelligente » en raison du développement de son industrie de l'intelligence artificielle, Montréal est prisée par des dizaines de milliers de nos étudiants qui y développent et perfectionnent leurs connaissances tout en occupant une place de marque dans le bassin des talents montréalais et québécois.

Thank you all for answering the call and attending this wonderful gathering. Your presence is the symbol of our strength and unity, and a true expression of faith and trust in our Millennials limitless capabilities.

Welcome to LDE Mtl, Québec

# PROGRAM



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LDE MONTREAL

15 > 16 SEPT. 2018

# PALAIS DES CONGRÈS DE MONTRÉAL

Held this year in Montreal under the theme of *NextGen Vibe*, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Lebanese Diaspora Energy North-America* will give the spotlight to the millennial generation by providing an opportunity for young talent to showcase their innovative ideas, entrepreneurship and unique points of view on various panels.

During two very promising days, Montreal will bring together a dynamic audience, experts and personalities of Lebanese origin from North-America, to build a stronger partnership amongst them and maintain close ties with their Homeland, while creating new investment opportunities in key economic sectors for both Lebanese and international companies.

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LDE / SATURDAY

15 SEPT. 2018

8 AM > 9 AM

## REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST

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9:30 AM > 11 AM

## LDE MONTREAL OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY – “NEXTGEN VIBE”

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11 AM > 11:15 AM

## COFFEE BREAK

.....

11:15 AM > 12:30 PM

# SESSION 1 – LEBANITY

What makes us Lebanese? How do we define Lebanity? Do frontiers and generations alter our identity? What do Lebanese at home and in the diaspora have in common, and how can our strengths be put to good use in – and outside – Lebanon? Lebanese men and women all over the world have been succeeding brilliantly in many fields as individuals. How can we become a strong collective? What are the main Lebanese values that we can build on?

Today Lebanon faces many challenges and desperately needs to rely on its diaspora and its youth. How do we keep our children born in adoptive countries interested in Lebanon? Can we prevent Lebanity from dilution in future generations? The panel: generation I, II and III from the Lebanese diaspora, influencers who have Lebanon at heart, will discuss issues such as: identity v/s citizenship, Lebanese strengths and weaknesses, the diaspora’s responsibilities towards the adoptive land and the homeland, opportunities and solutions.

12:45 PM > 2 PM

# LUNCH

2 PM > 3:15 PM

# SESSION 2 – GAS & OIL

**Tapping on the business opportunities generated by Lebanon’s Oil and Gas Exploration**

Lebanon oil and natural gas sector is not only about exploring and drilling. This major undertaking will have spillover effects on a myriad of investment and business opportunities for small and medium enterprises, in direct and related activities, such as real estate, transportation, logistics, financial, human resources, and professional services. Cleantech start-ups are also bringing innovative solutions to this industry. The panel will explore the sustainable conditions and structural reforms that will encourage North-American companies and experts of Lebanese origin to participate and support the emerging ecosystem of this promising sector. This can be materialized through the transfer of technology, know-how sharing and direct investment.

2 PM > 4 PM

# WORKSHOP FOR HONORARY CONSULS

3:15 PM > 4:30 PM

## SESSION 3 – EDUCATION

Lebanese Graduates Ready to Embrace the Evolving *Tech-Driven* Workplace? The Impact of Artificial Intelligence and New Technology on Lebanon’s Higher Education. Higher education is caught amid whirlwind changes taking place. They are technological, though also demographic, social, and economic. Given the possibility – even likelihood – of being outpaced, universities need to pivot quickly. Foresight requires a swift follow-through of smart, timely, adequate responses. Engaged universities anticipate changes and make the necessary transformations. This panel is about thinking of the future – what it will look like given regional differences, academic cultures, and institutional capacity to innovate.

**The pannel will raise among the other issues the following:**

- › How artificial intelligence stands to impact education and research financing;
- › Trends in continuing education;
- › Importance of student diversity;

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4:30 PM

## COFFEE BREAK

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4:45 PM > 6 PM

## SESSION 4 – GASTRO-DIPLOMACY

Food is ID and our Lebanese heritage is well known by its rich culinary art and the diversity of its products. A Lebanese table is the key in assembling people together by creating unforgettable precious moments. With the *Gastronomic Diplomacy* launched by the MoFA during the LDE in May 2018, it is essential today to create a specialized entity dedicated to the promotion of this special heritage by helping the exportation of some of the main Lebanese specialties like wine, arak, olive oil and thyme. Among the multifacets of this initiative, this panel will specially focus on boosting the exportation of main lebanese products in North America.

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8 PM

## GALA DINNER

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LDE / SUNDAY

16 SEPT. 2018

8:30 AM

## LIGHT BREAKFAST

8:30 PM > 9:30 AM

## SESSION 5 – LDE STARTUP COMMUNITY MEET THE “NEXTGEN” ENTREPRENEURS

NextGen Entrepreneurs from Lebanon, Canada and US will present their Startups and will be available at the *LDE Startup Village* for matchmaking.

9:45 AM > 10:45 AM

## SESSION 6 – LDE STARTUP COMMUNITY MEET THE “NEXTGEN” TALENTS

After more than 36 hours of working, with the guidance of mentors, to develop their innovative ideas, teams will be evaluated by a committee and selected ones will get the chance to pitch their ideas in front of a jury and the audience. Alfa Startup Awards will be offered to the finalists.

**11 AM > 12:30 PM**

## **SESSION 7 – MULTICULTURAL INNOVATION CORRIDOR**

Innovation and entrepreneurship are part of the Lebanese DNA and many North-American startups have Lebanese among their founders and some Startups in Lebanon are ready and looking to expand to North-America. In support to the Lebanese Startup community, this panel will highlight the opportunities and expertise of all stakeholders to collaborate in order to bridge the Lebanese and North-American ecosystems.

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**12:30 PM > 1 PM**

## **OFFICIAL CEREMONY – “TOGETHER TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS”**

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**1 PM > 5 PM**

## **“NEXTGEN VIBE” FESTIVAL –**

Lunch with different stations highlighting the artistic talents of our Youth (*music, fashion, painting, etc...*)

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## **LDE HYDEPARK – تَيوَصَل صوت الإغتراب ANIMATED BY MTV LEBANON**

The perfect platform to share and discuss freely your views and opinions.

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**6:30 PM**

# OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LEBANESE FILM FESTIVAL IN CANADA : “THE INSULT” – ZIAD DOUEIRY

In the presence of renowned  
Lebanese actors: *(Red Carpet Event)*

- › Camille Salameh
- › Nada Abou-Farhat
- › Badih Abou-Chacra

**Salle André-Mathieu**  
475, Boul. de l’Avenir  
Laval, Québec  
H7N 5H9

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## MC

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Ms. Jasmin Ibrahim,  
Mr. Mark Ghanime

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## KEY NOTE SPEAKERS & OFFICIALS

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H.E. Ambassador Fadi Ziadeh,  
Dr. Salim Sfeir,  
Mr. Marwan Hayek,  
H.E. Fayçal Khoury,  
H.E. Minister Christine St-Pierre,  
H.E. Minister Gebran Bassil,

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## ENTERTAINMENT

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*The 7 doigts de la main,*  
Ms. Nadia Azzi,  
Mr. Sarkis Barsemian,  
Mrs. Leila Chalfoun,  
Mr. Amine J. Hachem,  
Mrs. Julie Nesrallah,  
Mrs. Dana Nigrim,  
Mrs. Elite Possik

# OPENING CEREMONY



## MR. MARK GHANIMÉ

ACTOR & PRODUCER

Mark Ghanimé was born & raised in Canada to a Lebanese father & Canadian mother. With his diverse background, he grew up speaking French, English, & Arabic. In 2003, after working on a tv movie starring Juliette Lewis, Mark knew he wanted to be an actor. He was offered his first guest star on the CBC show *Wild Roses*. Then in quick succession came *Smallville*, *Supernatural*, and the supporting lead opposite Steven Weber & Treat Williams in the mini-series *Eve of Destruction*. He went on to recur as Dr. Jamie Albagetti alongside Meryl Streep's daughter Mamie Gummer in the CWs *Emily Owens MD*. In 2013, Mark was cast as a lead in *Ronald D. Moore's Helix as Sergio Ballejeros*. After the show's two season run, he went on to recur in the CW's *Reign* as Prince Don Carlos, *Slasher* and *Private Eyes* opposite Jason Priestley. Now residing in Montreal with his small family, this year, Mark is set to appear in films for Netflix, SyFy and various other projects.



## MS. JASMIN IBRAHIM

TV HOST

Born in Ottawa, Jasmin Rose Ibrahim fell in love with Lebanon at first sight and Lebanese cuisine at first bite. Currently, Jasmin represents Lebanese cuisine on *GustoTV's One World Kitchen*. She hosted as well as produced *Ottawa Experts*, has co-hosted *Daytime Ottawa* on Rogers TV, and worked on the production of and modelled for CBC's lifestyle show *The Goods*. Jasmin represents the Ottawa Lebanese Festival on various media outlets including CTV, where she is a travel expert on CTV Morning Live. As a proud alumna of the University of Ottawa, she feels privileged to have worked in the office of Ottawa's Mayor and City Manager.



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# LES 7 Doigts

With 9000 shows performed around the world in 16 years, The 7 Fingers is one of the jewels of the Canadian scene. The collective currently has six shows on tour. In addition, The 7 Fingers have worked on multitude of tailor-made projects, including the opening segment of the *Sochi Winter Olympics* Opening Ceremony, the integration of circus in the revival of *Pippin* on Broadway, and the circus elements of the *Queen of the Night* dinner show at the legendary *Paramount Hotel* in New York. The collective enjoys strong government support, through which it was recently able to open its *Creation and Production Centre* in the heart of Montreal.



## MS. NADIA AZZI

PIANIST

Hailed by *Newport Daily News* as having extraordinary finger technique for a musician so young, Nadia Azzi is a recipient of numerous top prizes at national and international levels. Born in Dunedin, Florida to Lebanese-Japanese parents, Ms. Azzi began playing the piano at the age of five, and made her *Carnegie Hall* debut at age eleven and her concerto debut with the *Boston Neo-politan Orchestra* at age twelve. She performed since with many major Orchestras. Ms. Azzi graduated from the pre-college division of *The Juilliard School* studying with Yoheved Kaplinsky, and currently studies with Fabio Bidini at the *Colburn Conservatory of Music* with a full scholarship.



## MR. SARKIS BARSEMIAN

TENOR

Canadian tenor Sarkis Barsemian is quickly becoming known for his charm and noble presence on stage. His bright lyric voice and ease with the upper register is well suited for the romantic leads of Mozart and bel canto repertoire. Mr. Barsemian participated in different programs such as the *Orford Opera*, *The Unlimited Summer Festival Opera* in New Mexico and *Summer Opera Lyric Theater* of Toronto.



## MRS. LEILA CHALFOUN

SOPRANO

Leila Chalfoun is a soprano and director—founder of *Festival Opéra de Saint-Eustache*, has received the *Prix Cèdre et Érable* from the *Chamber of Commerce and Industry Canada-Lebanon*, the prestigious *Order of St Eustache*, the *prix Cybèle 2011*. On 21 March 2013, Ms. Chalfoun won the *Arts & Culture—Arab woman from Quebec* for lifetime achievement in the field of opera as a soprano and artistic director. Her recent engagements in 2015–16–17 include a performance in homage to the director of the *Rimouski Opera Claude-Robin Pelletier* during the *Concert-Gala*, performances at various events in Montreal and Quebec City.



## MR. AMINE J. HACHEM

**OPERATIC & CROSSOVER TENOR**

Amine is a Lebanese-American operatic and crossover tenor who has “thrilled audiences” (*An-Nahar*) across the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. Acclaimed for his “captivating” performances (*BroadwayWorld*), Amine has performed in international venues including Carnegie Hall, The MGM Grand Casino, Broadway’s 54 Below, The United Nations, and NY Fashion Week. As lead tenor, he has performed works by Verdi, Puccini, Bizet, and Mahler. Amine recently released his first single *Abballati Abballati* bringing Mediterranean multiculturalism to life with a new Middle Eastern twist to an old Italian folk song.



## MRS. DANA NIGRIM

**PIANIST**

Affirmed as one of the most talented pianists of her generation, Dana Nigrim has developed a rich solo activity. She is regularly invited by symphony orchestras under the direction of renowned Romanian and international conductors.



## MRS. JULIE NESRALLAH

**MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Canadian-Lebanese mezzo-soprano, Julie Nesrallah is an internationally renowned singer and broadcaster. She has performed for Prince William and Princess Kate in Ottawa, for Queen Noor in Montreal, and for Princess Haya in Jordan. Miss Nesrallah is the Executive Producer and star of *Carmen on Tap*, a company she created that performs Georges Bizet’s opera *Carmen* as cabaret and has made several recordings with illustrious soloists and ensembles. Miss Nesrallah is a proud recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal.



## MRS. ELITE POSSIK

**BIOCHEMIST & SINGER**

Elite is a Lebanese-Canadian biochemist and singer. She received her PhD in biochemistry from McGill University and continues her postdoctoral studies at CrCHUM. On the other hand, she studied oriental singing at the Lebanese National Conservatory, participated in many international musical projects, and released three religious albums. She lives in Montreal since 2011. She directed several events including *Bhebbak Ya Lebnan* under the high patronage of the Lebanese Consulate (*Place des Arts, 2017*) and *Imna Betlemna (Mary Queen of the World Basilica, 2018)* with more than 70 and young and adult choristers and musicians. Elite passes the torch to the next generation by keeping our traditional Lebanese and religious songs alive.



## H.E. MINISTER GEBRAN BASSIL

MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS & EMIGRANTS



## H.E. FADI ZIADEH

AMBASSADOR OF LEBANON  
TO CANADA

Ambassador Ziadeh is Holder of a degree in Management and Economics and in International Relations from the *Notre-Dame University (NDU)* in Lebanon. Ambassador Fadi Ziadeh completed also an MMBA at McGill University in Montreal. He started his diplomatic career as an *Attaché* at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants in Lebanon in 1999, and occupied many positions since, such as Consul/Deputy Head of Mission (DHoM) at the Lebanese Embassy in Abu Dhabi (UAE), First Secretary/Political Councilor at the Lebanese Embassy in Moscow (Russia), *Chargé d’Affaires* at the Lebanese Embassy in Prague, Councilor at the Mission of Lebanon to the United-Nations in New-York. After assuming the post of Consul General in Montreal, ambassador Ziadeh was appointed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 as Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary Ambassador of Lebanon to Canada.



## DR. SALIM SFEIR

CHAIRMAN-CEO  
OF THE BANK OF BEIRUT GROUP

Dr. Sfeir’s journey has left his personal signature on education, on banking and commerce, on communities and indeed on life. He is the Chairman-CEO of the Bank of Beirut Group since 1993. As a student, he received his B.S.S. degree in Economics from the *Université de Montréal* and his Masters of Business Administration from the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM). He began his career in Finance with the Bank of Nova Scotia. In 1983 he formed Wedge Bank (M.E.) as General Manager, and in 1987 launched Wedge Bank Switzerland as Chief Executive and Vice Chairman. The turning point came with the Management Buy-In of Bank of Beirut in 1993. Under his leadership, a small, local Bank eventually expanded to 9 countries on 4 continents earning the trademark “Banking Beyond Borders.” Today, Bank of Beirut comprises more than 100 branches and strategic business units internationally. A signature theme for Dr. Sfeir has been an unwavering commitment to his Community, including particularly the youth and the Lebanese diaspora. Dr. Sfeir’s tireless work has been recognized through many treasured honors internationally, including: Inauguration of the Library of the Pontifical Maronite College in Rome; Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of Pope Saint Sylvester; Best Banker in the MENA Region and Lifetime Achievement Award-Banker Middle East Magazine; Medal of the National Order of the Cedar conferred by President Michel Suleiman; Honorary President of the Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce, Melbourne; Lifetime Achievement Awards for his contribution to the LDE in Johannesburg, Beirut, New York, Sydney, Las Vegas and Paris conferred on him by H.E. Gebran Bassil; with countless additional honors and awards bestowed upon him.



## H.E. FAYÇAL EL KHOURY

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
FOR THE RIGING OF LAVAL-LES-ÎLES  
PRESIDENT OF CANADA-LEBANON  
FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Born in Charbila, Lebanon, MP El-Khoury is a poet and has lived in Canada since 1976. A graduate in civil engineering from Concordia University, he was elected in 2015 to the House of Commons. He is a member of the Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations and Chairman of the Canada-Lebanon Friendship Parliamentary Group. He is also a member of the Canadian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, a member of the Canada-France and Canada-Europe Inter-parliamentary Associations. He is a member of several interparliamentary groups, including Canada-France, Canada-United States and Canada-Italy. Finally, he represents Canada at the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie* and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



## MR. MARWAN HAYEK

CHAIRMAN & CEO OF ALFA

Marwan Hayek is a telecom veteran and award-winning executive with over 23 years of international career. He is currently the Chairman and CEO of Alfa. Since joining Orascom Telecom Holding in 1999, Mr. Hayek has enabled over 120 million users to benefit from mobile services. Under his leadership since March 2010, Alfa grew by 3 folds to serve 2 million subscribers, generated more than \$6 Billion revenues to public treasury, enabled the latest technologies introduction to Lebanon and helped creating more than 3,000 related jobs. He is currently the Goal Leader of SDG #9 on the UNGCNL SDG Council and a member of the Board of Directors of SAMENA Telecommunications Council.



## H.E. MINISTER CHRISTINE ST-PIERRE

MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS AND LA FRANCOPHONIE

In 1976, she began a career as a radio and television journalist for Radio-Canada, working in several cities around the country, including Moncton, Montréal, Québec City and Ottawa. Ms. St-Pierre was also a correspondent in Washington. As a member of the first gender-balanced cabinet, she headed the *ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine* until 2012, in addition to being responsible for the application of the Charter of the French Language. She was also a member of the *Comité ministériel du développement social, éducatif et culturel*.



LEBANESE ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION  
الإتحاد اللبناني للتزلج على الجليد

The Lebanese Ice Hockey Federation (LIHF) in collaboration with the LDE Montreal will host the opening activities during the exhibition game at McGill University Arena's (Sept 14th, 2018). The LIHF is proud to host this event in Montreal, playing the most popular sport of the province and Canada. This event has a wider context in which sports & culture are part of our integration and living together. The LIHF goal is to also promote & evolve ice hockey within the International Lebanese Diaspora and in Lebanon.

The LIHF is the governing body overseeing the Lebanese local and international ice hockey teams as well as development programs for Adult & Youth players. Currently based in Montreal, our program also includes a development strategy for the youth in Beirut (Panthers Team). The LIHF also manages the Lebanese men's & women's national Team as to participate in international tournaments & exhibition games.



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## SESSION 1

Moderator Mrs. Lamia Charlebois

Panelists  
Mr. Charles Boustany,  
Dr. Joseph Chbat,  
Dr. Nassib El Hussein,  
Dr. Antoine Lotfi,  
Mrs. Caro Lotfi,  
Mr. James Shamie

# LEBANANITY



Moderator

## MRS. LAMIA CHARLEBOIS

**PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT,  
SPEAKER AUTHOR, REPORTER**

Lamia was a Commentator on Radio-Canada radio, had a weekly column in *L'Express* and writes regularly for magazines. An active speaker, her TEDx talk reached 26,900 viewers. Through her PR agency she offers: strategic counsel, crisis management, media relations, training in communication, leadership and public speaking. Her clients are located in Canada, the USA, Europe and the Middle East. Lamia speaks four languages and has lived in Beirut, Québec City, Ottawa, Toronto and Montréal. A recipient of a business award, she published a book and launched a foundation to help women in need pay for cancer treatments. Lamia also founded *Libanais de Montréal – Sirop d'arabe* a platform of help and information (3200 Libano-Montrealers).



Panelist

## MR. CHARLES BOUSTANY

**PRESIDENT FLEXIPAK**

Charles has started his career in banking. In 1976, he was transferred from Beirut to Canada with the TD bank. In 1988, he took on trading & manufacturing in Canada & USA. He was the CEO of Flexipak industries for 20 years, until it was acquired by a Canadian multinational Corp. Charles spends his time as consultant in investment & trading between Canada and Lebanon. During his career, Charles was active in promoting & strengthening the relationship between Canada & Lebanon. He cofounded the Canadian Lebanese chamber of commerce, was president of the Maronite Union of Canada and an active member of the International Maronite Foundation in Los Angeles.



Panelist

## DR. JOSEPH CHBAT

**DOCTOR IN PHILOSOPHY, TEACHER,  
SPEAKER, AUTHOR, EXPERT IN  
EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE**

Joseph has completed his teaching career with four government funded research projects. Passionate about emotional intelligence, his approach combines theory and practice. A sought-after speaker, he is known to captivate his audience during his numerous national and international lectures. Author of several publications, textbooks and articles, his logic-philosophical thought is intertwined with symbolic-poetic sensitivity. An advocate of self-awareness, responsible emotion management and optimism, he practises what he preaches. Defining himself as a person born under a lucky star, and distinguished by an overflowing motivation for all the projects he undertakes, Dr. Chbat has developed a great confidence in him and in others.



Panelist

## DR. NASSIB EL HUSSEINI

**CEO – LES 7 DOIGTS DE LA MAIN, PHD**

A political scientist and author (*L'Occident Imaginaire, PUQ Editions*), Nassib has been an advisor and volunteer for dozens of provincial, national, and international organisations. In 2003, he fell under the charm of Les 7 doigts de la main, took on the executive direction of this jewel of the Montreal stage. Nassib is currently the president of the International Exchange for the Performing Arts (CINARS). He sits on the boards of the *Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM)*, the National Theatre School of Canada, and the *Société des arts technologiques*. In 2013, he received the Recognition Award at UQÀM to emphasize his exceptional career. In 2015 he received the Artists Award for Peace.



Panelist

## DR. ANTOINE LOTFI

**SURGICAL ONCOLOGIST  
AT MCGILL**

In 1989, Dr. Antoine has developed training program in surgical emergencies in Ethiopia, and since he continues to participate in humanitarian surgical missions. In 2004, he was appointed director of the Cancer program at the *Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux*. During his mandate, there was better access to quality cancer care. He represented Quebec and Canada in many national and international events. Despite his many contributions to the development of surgery and oncology, he continues to find his greatest satisfaction in caring for patient.



Panelist

## MRS. CARO LOTFI

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
– APATHY IS BORING**

Caro started as an intern at Apathy is Boring and quickly took on the national leadership role, working in a non-partisan manner to engage Canadian youth in democracy. Previously a co-producer for Montreal's Art Matters Festival, she holds a BFA with distinction from Concordia University. She sits on the Inspirit Foundation board as well as the Darling Foundry. Providing a youth perspective on topics of civic and political engagement, she was featured on CTV News, Radio Canada, The HuffPost and Global News. One of 19 prominent young Canadians to watch (*We Are Canada CBC series*) she was awarded the Walker Humanitarian Award by Concordia University and was named Canadian Arab to Watch in 2015 by the Canadian Arab Institute.



Panelist

## MR. JEFF SHAMIE

**PRESIDENT & CEO –  
THE CEDARS CANCER FOUNDATION**

Jeff Shamie, a leading fundraising professional, has transformed the Cedars Cancer Foundation, growing from its roots in the Lebanese community to become one of Montreal's principal support of cancer treatment, teaching and research. Jeff spearheaded negotiations leading to the opening of the Foundation at the McGill University Health Centre. Jeff has worked in marketing in the international apparel industry and was Director of Expo 2000. He worked closely with several Ontario cabinet ministers as a senior policy advisor and an assistant in the Prime Minister's Office. A City Councillor for District 3 in the City of Westmount, he has also been appointed Chair of the Finance & Administration Committee and Commissioner of Westmount Hydro.

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encouraging innovation, talent

and entrepreneurship while promoting Lebanon

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## SESSION 2

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Moderator Mr. Maroun N. Chammas

Panelists Mr. Ray Akl,  
Mr. Charlie El Khoury,  
Mr. Rami El Mir,  
Dr. Karim Zaghbi

# GAS & OIL



Moderator

## MR. MAROUN N. CHAMMAS

CHAIRMAN &amp; CEO OF BERYTECH

Maroun Chammas entered into the world of entrepreneurship when he was only 12. His entrepreneurial drive led him and his brother in 1995 to become pioneers in Lebanon's digital frontier, introducing internet access through their company Data Management – IDM. Today, while representing the third generation of the Chammas family to become the vice chairman and general manager of MEDCO the number one national oil and gas downstream company and through his role in Berytech, he plays an active key role in shaping the ecosystem that nurtures and supports Lebanese innovation and entrepreneurship.



Panelist

## MR. RAY AKL

PRINCIPAL, PROJECT MANAGER  
AT VISTA PROJECTS LIMITED

Mr. Ray Akl is an *entrepreneur*, a senior program manager and member of Vista Projects limited Board of Directors. Ray has over 15 years of experience in Canada's energy engineering industry and managed a series of large-scale SAGD projects for a long-term client and major oil sands player. Having held a variety of roles throughout his career, he brings a unique blend of corporate, program and engineering management, procurement and technical advisory experience to major projects. Ray In 2011, was selected as one of Oilweek's Rising Stars, an award that recognizes the brightest and best up-and-comers in the Canadian oil and gas industry.



Panelist

## MR. CHARLIE EL KHOURY

FOUNDER &amp; CEO OF NAR

Charlie El Khoury was born in 1992. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer at NAR Technologies. His main role is overseeing the overall strategy of NAR and more particularly defining the marketing, business development as well as sales strategies for the company. Charlie graduated as a Computer & Communication Engineer in 2015 from the Lebanese American University and directly jumped into the entrepreneurial world by co-founding NAR He considers himself to be very lucky to find what he loves to do most at a young age.



Panelist

## MR. RAMI EL MIR

AUTOMATION CONSULTANT FOR BP

Rami El-Mir has 15 years of experience in the Energy Sector and currently holds an Automation Specialist GOM position at BP America. He has extensive experience in offshore upstream and onshore downstream design commissioning and operations areas. He holds a BE degree in Computer Engineering from *Notre-Dame* University and has obtained another MS in Project Management with a minor in Business Administration from University of Houston. Currently Rami is continuing his education in leadership management at Harvard University. Prior to joining BP, Rami worked as a project engineer at Mustang CAT as well as at Siemens and worked as a Worldwide Technical Manager for Siemens Oil & Gas.



Panelist

## DR. KARIM ZAGHIB

GENERAL DIRECTOR - CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION  
ELECTRIFICATION AND ENERGY  
STORAGE

Karim Zaghbi is the General Director of *Hydro-Québec's* Center of Excellence in Transportation Electrification and Energy Storage, and one of the world's most impactful scientists according to Clarivate Analytics (*formerly Thomson Reuters' Intellectual Property and Science Business division*). Earlier in 2017, Karim Zaghbi's laboratory team created a first self-charging battery, a battery capable of absorbing and storing energy from light sources. This groundbreaking technology, should it come to life, will initially be used to power small portable devices like phones, but could potentially be used to power larger devices such as electric vehicles. If this battery becomes a tangible reality, it will be a world first.

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## SESSION 3

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Moderator

Dr. Tania Saba

Panelists

Dr. Nada Marie Anid,  
Mrs. Rola Dagher,  
Mrs. Rania Ghorayeb,  
Dr. Steve Harvey,  
Dr. Joseph Jabbra,  
Dr. Nadia Naffi,  
Dr. Alan Shepard,

# EDUCATION



Moderator

## DR. TANIA SABA

BMO CHAIRED PROFESSOR IN  
DIVERSITY AND GOVERNANCE  
PROFESSOR IN THE SCHOOL  
OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS –  
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

Since 1995, Tania Saba teaches and conducts research on managing diversity, intergenerational relations and employment relations transformations. She has published extensively and her work was awarded on many occasions. Tania has held several academic leadership positions at the *Université de Montréal*. She was the first female Chair of the School of Industrial Relations (2008–2010); Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies (2010–2012) and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and External Affairs at the Faculty of Arts and Science (2012–2015). From 2015 to 2017, she acted as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Saba has a Law degree from *Université St-Joseph* in Beirut. She holds a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Industrial Relations from the *Université de Montréal* and has conducted postdoctoral research at Cornell University, tolerance, and identity.



Panelist

## DR. NADA MARIE ANID

VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS – (NYIT)

As the first female dean of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences from 2009 to 2018, Nada Anid spearheaded the creation of NYIT's NSA/DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education, its Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center, and certified business incubator. Anid also oversaw an overhaul of the school's academic offerings and facilities in cybersecurity, data analytics, bioengineering, and clean energy, and forged strategic partnerships and community ties, increased enrollment, and produced research output in excess of \$10 million. Anid earned a Ph.D. in environmental engineering from the University of Michigan and bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering from KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

Panelist

**MRS. ROLA  
DAGHER**

PRESIDENT, CISCO CANADA



Rola Dagher is President of *Cisco Canada* overseeing all aspects of the Canadian business and focused on bringing innovative digital solutions to enterprise, commercial, and public-sector industries. Cisco Canada is one of the top 5 markets for Cisco worldwide, and home to Cisco's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest R&D center. Dagher joined Cisco from Dell EMC Canada where she held a variety of leadership roles. She is a recognized industry leader with 25 years of experience and has a deep commitment and passion for developing leaders and creating more diversity in business. Rola Dagher supports female leadership across the industry, including her position as Americas Executive Sponsor and Americas Board President of *Cisco's Connected Women's Network*. Dagher also serves on Board of Directors for the Cedar Cancer Centre and is also an active member of the Business Council for Canada.

Panelist

**MRS. RANA  
GHORAYEB**
 SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT  
 INVESTMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE  
 CAISSE DE DÉPÔT ET DE  
 PLACEMENT DU QUÉBEC – CDPQ


Rana Ghorayeb heads CDPQ's infrastructure investments. She oversees the Acquisition and Asset Management teams and has close to 20 years of global investment experience. Before joining CDPQ, she held the position of President at Aquilae Capital in Montréal. Previously, she was Vice-President at J.P. Morgan Asset Management in London and an Associate at TIAA-CREF in New York, and at TEQ and Tridome Construction in Montréal. Rana has a M.Sc. in Finance from New York University, a Master of Engineering in Construction Management and a B.A in Urban Planning, both from Concordia University. She is a member of the Board of Governors of Concordia University and Concordia's Engineering and Computer Science Advisory Board. In July 2017, she was appointed President of the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation (SIF) Council.



Panelist

## DR. STEVE HARVEY

DEAN, SULIMAN

S. OLAYAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS –  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

Steve Harvey was appointed dean and professor of management in 2016, after having served as Dean of the John Molson School of Business, Concordia University, and Dean of the Williams School of Business and Associate VP, Research at Bishop's University. Harvey earned his doctorate from the University of Guelph in 1996. Since then, he has been an active scholar, professor, senior executive, and consultant in management and human resources. Harvey's research has been recognized by various awards, subsidized by several funding agencies, and presented at multiple conferences worldwide. As a strong advocate of the view that practice and research inform teaching, he has been regularly conveying his research findings and practice knowledge within the classroom. He has won several awards for teaching in areas of human resource management, organizational behavior, organizational conflict, and negotiations.



Panelist

## DR. JOSEPH JABBRA,

PRESIDENT – LEBANESE AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY

Since 2004, Joseph Jabbra's leadership has launched LAU on the path of institutional and academic renaissance, supported by strong internal human and financial resources. Previously, he served as Academic Vice President at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles, California, from 1990 to 2004. He had earlier served as Vice President, Academic and Research, at St. Mary's University (SMU) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, from 1980 to 1990. Joseph Jabbra earned his law degree at the *Université Saint-Joseph* in Beirut, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He is the author, co-author, and co-editor of 12 books. The latest, *Public Administration in Transition*, was recently published in London, England. He has also published over 33 articles and chapters in books and scholarly journals, over 26 book reviews in both English and French.

Panelist

**DR. NADIA  
NAFFI**

PROFESSOR IN THE EDUCATIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM –  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL



Dr. Nadia Naffi, expert in disruptive pedagogy and recipient of the Governor General Gold Medal 2018, is an Assistant Professor at Concordia University in the Educational Technology program. An LAU alumna and a Concordia University public scholar, she has delivered presentations and keynotes in national and international conferences on topics including: teaching with social media, online problem-based learning, online learning communities, maker movement, cyberbullying, teaching about extremism, and online propaganda. Dr. Naffi was one of the winners of the SSHRC Storyteller national competition. Naffi's research addresses how hate, fear, and prejudice spread through social media. She identified a five-step model called "Get Ready to Act Against Social Media Propaganda" to disrupt hate discourses.

Panelist

**DR. ALAN  
SHEPARD**

PRESIDENT OF  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
– MONTRÉAL



Concordia's founding institutions, Loyola College (1896) and Sir George Williams University (1926), gave rise in 1974 to the modern Concordia, now home to 48,000 students. Alan joined Concordia in 2012 from Toronto, where he had served as provost of Ryerson. Alan has held leadership roles in Virginia and Texas and at Guelph. His past and present public service includes Canadian Research Knowledge Network, Universities Canada, Montréal Board of Trade, Stratford Festival of Canada, and Montréal's Quartier d'innovation. At Concordia, Alan and his team are focused on building a "next-generation" university.

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## SESSION 4

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**Moderator**      **Mr. Joseph Cheaib**

**Panelists**      **Mrs. Maya Bekhazi Noun,  
Mr. Mohammad Fakih,  
Mr. Sami Ghosn,  
Mrs. Soumaya Merhi,**

# GASTRO- DIPLO- MACY



**Moderator**

**MR. JOSEPH  
CHEAIB**

Joseph Cheaib is a leader in the Montreal and Quebec food industry and business community and an active volunteer and fundraiser for a number of causes and charitable organizations. He studied at a Canadian college in Montreal while working for The *Adonis Group*, his family company. After earning his university degree in economics, Joseph ventured into business on his own with the opening of *La Sirene de la Mer*, the first Lebanese fish and seafood restaurant in Canada. He was one of the first in Montreal to have a fish market and a restaurant under one roof, allowing customers to choose their fish and seafood which are prepared and cooked on the spot. In 2006, he devoted much energy and time to national financing campaigns of the Canadian Red Cross. Joseph has hosted events in support of cancer research and treatment for the St-Justine's children's hospital, and he is currently a member of the Board of Directors of *Cedars Cancer Foundation* of the McGill University Health Centre where he has led several major fundraising events.



Panelist

## MRS. MAYA BEKHAZI NOUN

MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND  
GENERAL SECRETARY OF  
THE SYNDICATE OF RESTAURANT  
OWNERS IN LEBANON

Member of The board and General Secretary of the Syndicate of Restaurant owners in Lebanon Maya grew up between Lebanon KSA and the UK. She started a career in Banking, with a double Major Bachelor in Science and an Executive MBA and ventured in the Food and Beverage Business since 2000. Married to Dr. Ziad Noun and Mother of Gabriella and Sophia, she is now devoted to a full time regional business, creating, owning, developing and managing Food and Beverage concepts with new brands opening in Lebanon and the Gulf region in 2018. Maya was elected Member of the Board of the Syndicate of Restaurant owners In Lebanon in 2014, and General Secretary in 2016. Maya Participated in many regional events on promoting Women in Business and was nominated to attend the top leadership programs. Maya is a winner of many awards amongst which Best Woman Achiever in Hospitality in 2010.



Panelist

## MR. MOHAMAD FAKIH

PRESIDENT & CEO, PARAMOUNT  
FINE FOODS, BUSINESSMAN  
& PHILANTHROPIST

In 2006, Mohamad Fakh purchased a nearly bankrupt restaurant and transformed it into, what is now known as the fastest growing Middle Eastern Halal restaurant chain in North America *Paramount Fine Foods*. Mohamad supports multiple non-profit organizations including the Canadian Cancer Society, Islamic Relief worldwide and Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. Across his restaurants Mohamad offers discounts to all Emergency Service Workers and contributes to the support of the 25,000 Syrian Refugees in Canada by providing jobs to some of them. In February 2017, Mohamad was acknowledged before the Canadian Parliament by the Prime Minister of Canada – Justin Trudeau-as an Exemplary Canadian Citizen and Businessman. In 2017 Toronto Life Magazine named Mohamad one of the Top 50 Most Influential People. Mohamad has received numerous awards for his business excellence and for his charitable works including most recently: *Consumers Choice Award— Best Mediterranean Restaurant* in Toronto.

Panelist

**MR. SAMI  
GHOSN****OWNER OF MASSAYA WINERY**

Sami Ghosn is truly a renaissance man. He has created Massaya, an admired international wine and arak brand, from the wreckage of his family's estate in Lebanon's Beqaa Valley. Since returning from the US in 1992 after civil war devastation, he and his brother Ramzi have built a winery in the Beqaa and a fabulous wine resort in Mount Lebanon at Faqra. Sami travels widely to promote Massaya and is an exceptional example of Lebanon's renowned habit of producing brilliant entrepreneurs. Looking back at his family's legacy, the struggles in the Middle East, the pride in his homeland, wine has a very special meaning to Sami: *"A glass of wine from Lebanon is more than an alcoholic beverage. It is a message of civilization, tolerance, and identity."*

Panelist

**MRS. SOUMAYA  
MERHI****OWNER OF TAQA BAKERY**

Soumaya is a young Lebanese entrepreneur that is aiming to make her bakery, TAQA, the leading health snack provider in the Middle East. She came back to Lebanon in 2013 after being in Montreal for 5 years where she completed her studies and was inspired by the growing market trend in healthy products and snacks. In the past five years she has tested, marketed, and built a sustainable business in the FMCG sector in Lebanon. She is passionate about making health snacks that are tailored to the taste buds of the Middle East and is pushing her way through modern and traditional trade. Her facility is certified ISO 22000:2005 and has international GMO-free training for all her staff. She is extremely dedicated to her vision and only exercises high standards and consistency on her bakery. Her product line consists of cookies, maamoul (stuffed vegan maamoul date, pistachio, walnut), and natural bars.

# GALA DINNER

## MC

Mr. Tony Baroud

## KEY NOTE SPEAKERS & OFFICIALS

Mr. Marwan Hayek,  
Mr. Rick Shadyac,

## ENTERTAINMENT

Rodge — NextGen Party

MC



## MR. TONY BAROUD

TV PRESENTER, HOST, SPORTS COMMENTATOR

Tony Baroud has been in the limelight for 25 years. As a public figure and celebrity, he is an influencer lead in the media field all over the Arab region. He started his career as a professional basketball player, and is currently a famous television producer and presenter. His humor, wit, fast sense of improvisation and catchy expressions, made him a successful commentator on TV sports booths. Tony hosted the National Miss Lebanon pageant and Multi TV shows; Games, Corporate, Musical and Social entertaining talk shows such as *Iktachafna Al Baroud*, *Hella w Htalla*, *Charaftouni* and recently *Ahla Jalseh*. Among others, Tony received the *Delta Rotana* Award of Best Presenter in Lebanon and Best TV Presenter at the Arab Satellite Festival in Cairo. Tony moderated a United Nations program in Lebanon between 7 countries to launch a youth prevention program against AIDS.

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS & OFFICIALS



## MR. MARWAN HAYEK

CHARMAIN & CEO OF ALFA



## MR. RICHARD C. SHADYAC JR.

PRESIDENT & CHIEF

EXECUTIVE OFFICER —ALSAC

Richard C. Shadyac Jr. was named the President and Chief Executive Officer of ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, in September 2009. He serves as ALSAC's sixth CEO since the organization's founding in 1957. ALSAC relies on generous supporters and volunteers who make donations and support tens of thousands of fundraising activities annually to help St. Jude in its mission of finding cures and saving children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Prior to becoming President and CEO, Shadyac served as the Chairman and President of the ALSAC Board of Directors. Shadyac was a practicing attorney for 27 years and worked as a managing partner in the Washington D.C./Northern Virginia law firm Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell, LLP and led the firm's Virginia offices located in Falls Church. In addition to his responsibilities as President and CEO of ALSAC, Shadyac leads community enhancement efforts by serving as the board chair of Memphis Tomorrow and helped to lead rebranding efforts for the City of Memphis. Shadyac has received several awards and recognitions including the 2017 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, 2016 CEO of the Year Award from Inside Memphis Business and A Person for Others Award from Marquette University.



## RODGE

DJ AND MUSIC PRODUCER

Rodge is the most famous DJ and dance music producer in the Middle East. He opens the biggest concerts in the region with international A-list artists and performs weekly in sold out events in Lebanon, Dubai, Egypt, Mykonos and around the world. He produced and released several singles like "Done Looking for Love", "Words", "It starts with love" etc. that became major hits. His remixes and cover versions also scored massive chart success. He reached so far a staggering 8 million plays on Anghami, as well as 300k followers.

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## SESSION 5 – NEXTGEN ENTREPRENEURS

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### STARTUP PRESENTATION

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## SESSION 6 – STARTUP SPRINT

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**Moderator** Mr. Bob Debbas

**Panelists** Mr. JC Btaiche,  
Mr. David Munir Nabti  
Ms. Rita Tehini,

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## SESSION 7 – MULTICULTURAL

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### INNOVATION CORRIDOR

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**Moderator** Mr. Ramy Boujawdeh

**Panelists** **PART A**  
Mr. Toufic Azar,  
Mr. Maroun N. Chammas,  
Mr. Chadi Habib,  
Dr. Nicolas Rouhana,  
Mrs. Roula Zaarour,  
Mr. Philippe Ziade,

**PART B**  
Mr. Paul Chukrallah,  
H.E. Neemat Frem,  
Dr. Ibrahim Gedeon,  
Mr. Marwan Hayek,  
Mr. Rabih Nassar,  
Mr. Cedric Tawil,

### PART A

## BRIDGING ECOSYSTEMS

Present the current status of the Lebanese startups ecosystem and showcase how to make the best out of operating from Lebanon and Canada. The panel will also discuss what Ecosystems, VCs and corporates in North America and Canada in particular are looking for to attract foreign innovation and what the current ecosystem can offer to the startups that have a product market fit in North America.

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### PART B

## ENABLING PARTNERS TOWARDS A STRIVING ECOSYSTEM

Tackle the role of telecom companies to support the digital transformation in both economies and the role that Startups can play to address the changes in the sector. What can Montreal, as the *AI capital*, offer top talents through its special program and Funds. We will hear about the experience, aspiration and objectives of Lebanese VCs in supporting the best startups and getting into international markets and what were the challenges of a Startup from Lebanon to succeed and grow in North America.



Moderator

**MR. BOB DEBBAS**

SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR - PROFESSOR  
- AUTHOR - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr Bob Debbas was born in 1968 in Beirut Lebanon. He is a serial *entrepreneur* with his latest company being in the crowdfunding space. He also has a blog for start-ups with around 8 million followers. He builds free online stores for Multi location brands and provides logoed merchandise to each location. He is a keynote speaker worldwide, author and a former professor to more than 2,000 students at NDU and AUST in Lebanon .



Panelist

**MR. JC BTAICHE**

FOUNDER OF YOUNGLEADERS

JC is the founder of *YoungLeaders*, a non-profit organization turning crazy teenagers into legendary founders. In parallel, JC is studying Pure & Applied Sciences at Marianopolis College. An avid reader, learner, and ballroom dancer, JC loves to try interesting stuff and is constantly looking for book recommendations.



Panelist

**MR. DAVID MUNIR NABTI**

CO-FOUNDER OF ALTCITY.ME (NGO),  
AND PITCHWORTHY.CO; SOCIAL  
ENTREPRENEUR & STARTUP TRAINER

David supports economic transformation efforts via entrepreneurship, tech, social entrepreneurship, and public sector innovation. He co-founded Pitchworthy.co, a tool for *online + offline* entrepreneurship programs. He also co-founded *AltCity.me* (non-profit), and recently launched *StartupScouts.org* in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Summer of Innovation, and Alfa Telecoms. He previously co-founded *Elevate Impact Accelerator*, the first accelerator launched in partnership with UNICEF globally, and Bootcamp LB, in partnership with BDL and AM Bank



Panelist

**MS. RITA TEHINI**

FOUNDER & CEO AT UPIIQ EQUITY  
ANALYST AT CDPQ

Rita juggles between Finance and Entrepreneurship. During the day, she's an Equity Analyst at *la Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec* and at night she develops UPIIQ. UPIIQ was born during her years at McGill, to bridge the gap between startup founders looking for team members and talents seeking such opportunities. UPIIQ currently has 2 chapters: McGill Dobson Match & UPIIQ Lebanon.



Moderator

## MR. RAMY BOUJAWDEH

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF  
BERYTECH

Ramy Boujawdeh, Deputy General Manager of Berytech. With 20 years of international experiences, Ramy amassed a diversified knowledge in the fields of change and quality management, operations, and entrepreneurship support programs. Ramy is highly active in introducing and managing innovative programs to create opportunities for youth, women and innovators. He is highly involved in connecting the Lebanese ecosystem with international partners. Ramy holds a BS in Agriculture from the American University of Beirut, and a MS in Management and Economics.



Panelist

## MR. TOUFIC AZAR

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO OF MEACO

Toufic Azar is a PhD candidate at McGill University in Mechanical Engineering. His thesis research was spun-off into Meacor, co-founded by Dr. Renzo Cecere, with the aim of commercializing the approach. Meacor is developing a catheter-based medical device intended to treat patients with mitral valve regurgitation without the need for open-heart surgery. The startup has raised seed funding and has been developing the technology between Montreal, Boston and Beirut.



Panelist

## MR. MAROUN N. CHAMMAS

CHAIRMAN & CEO OF BERYTECH



Panelist

## MR. CHADI HABIB

EX. VP & CIO OF DESJARDINS GROUP

Chadi Habib is the Executive Vice President Information Technology at *Desjardins Group*. Consisting of nearly 4000 technology professionals, his organization is accountable for all technology solutions and operations to the banking and insurance sectors of the group. He assumes the coleadership of the digital transformation initiated by *Desjardins Group*, an important shift which aims to enhance all services offered to Desjardins 7 million members and clients. He has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from McGill University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Richard Ivey School of Business. He is also a member of the Quebec advisory board on the government's Digital strategy which advises the Government's reflections on digital.



Panelist

## DR. NICOLAS ROUHANA

CHAIRMAN & GENERAL MANAGER  
OF IM CAPITAL

Dr. Nicolas Rouhana was born in 1968. He is currently the Chairman & General Manager of IM Capital, a program funded under USAID, providing Matching Capital, Equity Guarantee, and Support Programs to a broad range of early-stage businesses and angel investors in Lebanon. In 2000, he was part of the founding team of Berytech, the first technology incubator in Lebanon, and the Executive Director of Berytech till 2015, growing the Berytech family from one site to three sites, and supporting the Lebanese startup ecosystem. He was also Associate Professor at the Faculty of Engineering of St. Joseph University in Beirut and UQAM in Montreal. He is also currently Board Member of Berytech, Chairman of *Speed@BDD* accelerator, and Vice-President of Internet SOCIety Lebanon Chapter.



Panelist

## MR. PHILIPPE ZIADE

CEO & FOUNDER OF GROWTH  
HOLDINGS

Philippe Ziade is the Founder of *Growth Holdings*, a conglomerate of Real Estate investments, software development and renewable energy companies. He was recognized by The Wall Street Journal, Top 1000 real estate professionals in the US, Ranking 13th on the list nationally, and #1 in Nevada. He has been featured on primetime on MSNBC, CNBC, CNN, CNN Headlines, Fox Business Network and Discovery Channel. Born in Lebanon, he migrated to The United States where he swiftly became recognized as one of top Real Estate Investment leaders. Mr. Ziade strongly believes that culture and community are the foundations of his success, leading him to launch the *Invest to Stay* Program dedicated to creating investment opportunities that directly contribute to elevating and stabilizing the Lebanese economy. Such projects include *US Lebanon Tech Hub* and *The Lebanese American home* to name a few.



Panelist

## MS. ROULA ZAAROUR

COO OF REAL VENTURES

Roula Zaarour is currently COO of Real Ventures, Canada's most active early-stage venture capital firm that backs entrepreneurs with disruptive technologies and builds ecosystems. Prior to her current role, Roula spent close to 10 years playing a leading role in large organizations with major restructuring mandates. She was Vice-President, *People & Culture* of CBC/Radio-Canada during an important downsizing and re-organization. She also spent close to 6 years in South America as Vice-President, Business Transformation at *Aerolineas Argentinas*, and in Brazil as a Senior Advisor at *Matlin Patterson LLC*, an American private equity firm specialized in distressed investments. Roula had also occupied senior management positions at the *International Air Transport Association (IATA)* and Air Canada.



Panelist

## MR. PAUL CHUCRALLAH

CHAIRMAN AND GENERAL MANAGER  
OF BERYTECH FUND MANAGEMENT.

Paul Chucrallah, born 1969, is the Managing Director of *Berytech Fund II*, in his quality as Chairman and General Manager of Berytech Fund Management, the company in charge of managing the fund. His responsibilities span the commercial, investment and administrative sides of the business. He holds a diploma in Telecommunication and Electrical Engineering from ESIB - USJ in Beirut, and an M.B.A. from INSEAD - Fontainebleau. He is married with two grown-up children, and lives in Beirut, Lebanon.



Panelist

## DR. IBRAHIM GEDEON

CTO OF TELUS

Dr. Ibrahim Gedeon is one of the telecommunications industry's eminent thought leaders. By combining insight and skill as an applied scientist with a lighthearted approach to leadership he is now Chief Technology Officer for TELUS, where he is responsible for all technology development and strategy.



Panelist

## H.E. NEEMAT FREM

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
FOR THE RIDING OF  
JBEIL & KESRWAN

Neemat Georges Frem was born in the City of Jounieh, Lebanon. He is a prominent Lebanese businessman, and a member of the parliament of Lebanon. He graduated from the American University of Beirut with a Bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering in 1991. He completed a postgraduate diploma on leadership and business from Harvard University Business School, Georgetown University Business School and Stanford University Business School. He is former president of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists, chief executive of the multinational company INDEVCO Group, and founder and president of Phoenix Machinery. He is also the current President of The Maronite Foundation in the World. Frem was elected member of parliament in Jbeil and Keserwan constituency during the Lebanese general election held in Lebanon on 6 May 2018.



Panelist

## MR. MARWAN HAYEK

CHAIRMAN & CEO OF ALFA

FINALISTS  
PITCH TO AUDIENCE

JURY DELIBERATION BY

**Me Walid Abou-Farhat** (Abou-Farhat Law Offices)  
**Mr. Mohamad Hage** (Lufa Farms)  
**Mr. Marwan Hayek** (Alfa)  
**Mrs. Roula Zaarour** (Real Ventures)  
**Mr. Philippe Ziadé** (GH & US Lebanon Tech Hub)



Panelist

## MR. RABIH NASSAR

FOUNDER AND CEO OF SCRIPTR.IO

Rabih is the founder and CEO of *Scriptr.io*, a leading Internet of *Things* platform & marketplace that enable Enterprise Digital Transformation using IoT Data & Applications. With a global network of partners, 100+ integrations & dozens of verticals, Scriptr.io provides unparalleled capabilities, short time to market and cost efficiency. Rabih is a serial entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in Enterprise Software, Consumer Internet, Digital Media, Cloud & IoT across the United States, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. Rabih earned a B.S. in Telecommunications from the St. Joseph University and an MBA from the *École Supérieure des Affaires in Beirut*.



Panelist

## MR. CEDRIC TAWIL

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
AT MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL

Cedric Tawil is the Director of Business Development, Entrepreneurship at *Montréal International*. His role is to promote the Montreal business and startup environments to foreign entrepreneurs, supporting their launch in Greater Montréal. Previously, Cedric was a manager at EY in the tax incentive group with a focus on tech startups. Cedric holds a Bachelor of Software Engineering and a graduate diploma in innovation and technology management from *École Polytechnique de Montréal*.

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MC

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Ms. Jasmin Ibrahim

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### KEY NOTE SPEAKERS & OFFICALS

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H.E. Antoine Eid,  
H.E. Michel Haddad,  
The Honorable, Edward Gabriel,  
H.E. Minister Gebran Bassil

TOGETHER  
TOWARDS  
NEW HORIZONS



## MS. JASMIN IBRAHIM

TV HOST



## H.E. MICHEL HADDAD

AMBASSADOR

H.E Ambassador Michel Haddad is a board member and head of AML board committee at Credit Libanais Investment Bank. Ambassador Haddad served as a diplomat at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants for 33 years and was the Ambassador of Lebanon in Senegal and a non-resident ambassador in Mali and Gambia. He holds a bachelor degree in Law and accomplished advanced studies in International Law.

### KEYNOTES SPEAKERS & OFFICIALS



## H.E. ANTOINE EID

CONSUL GENERAL  
OF LEBANON IN MONTREAL

Antoine was born in Chiah Lebanon. He is currently the Consul General of Lebanon in Montreal. Antoine holds a license in Law and a Master's degree in Business Law from "Universite de Pau" in France and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Saint Joseph in Beirut. Antoine joined the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in 2001 and was appointed later as head of the Maritime Commerce Department at the Ministry of Public works and Transport. In 2003, he joined the diplomatic corps of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants. Ever since, he served as first Secretary in the Embassy of Lebanon in Accra, Deputy Head of Mission in Kuwait City and lately as Head of Consular Department at the Local administration in Beirut before moving to assume his post in Canada. Antoine is Married to Carole Zakka and have together 2 Children.



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## H.E. EDWARD M. GABRIEL

PRESIDENT & CEO, AMERICAN TASK  
FORCE FOR LEBANON. PRESIDENT &  
CEO – THE GABRIEL COMPANY LLC

Ambassador Edward M. Gabriel was the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco from November 1997 to March 2001, during which time a new U.S.–Morocco strategic relationship was launched on political, military and economic levels. He has convened multilateral policy forums involving national security, environmental, and trade and energy issues, and has been involved in matters of Russian and European nuclear non-proliferation. Currently, Ambassador Gabriel is President and CEO of The *Gabriel Company*, LLC, which advises American corporations and international entities on investment and policy strategies and projects.



## H.E. MINISTER GEBRAN BASSIL

MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS & EMIGRANTS



## LEBANESE DANCE SHOW – “WELTA2AYNA”

Since its inception in 1976, The *Al-Arz Lebanese Art Group* promotes the Lebanese Art across Canada. In “*Wetla2ayna*” *Al-Arz* blends together Lebanese dancers from various Canadian cities into a spectacular rivalling dance show, inspired from the strong bonds that connect the Lebanese citizens of Canada. Catch the beguiling rhythms and the energetic dance that indulge and delight in an exciting performance that evokes century-old traditions that define Lebanese cultural heritage.

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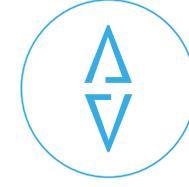
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