

Speaker Bios

Grace Attard - Entrepreneur and Leadership Coach

Known for her unconventional, courageous coaching methods, Grace Attard has helped hundreds of entrepreneurs get over the hump - whether it was hiring their first employee, getting their first client, successfully completing their first round of funding or starting their first franchise. Working in your business and owning a business are two completely different animals. Grace's personal story of resiliently riding through the humps in her life and career allows her to give honest and powerful lessons for those about to make the leap.

Carl Messenger-Lehmann – President, Gecko Marketing

Carl is passionate about online communication and design. As President of Gecko Marketing, an inbound marketing agency, he splits his time between providing the strategic direction for the company and meeting clients to help them succeed online.

Ted Creighton, P.Eng, MBA - Certified Business Coach

Ted Creighton is a strategic business coach with FocalPoint Coaching. He is passionate in helping business leaders & owners to achieve their full potential and is dedicated to enhancing the profitability of small to medium sized businesses.

Ted has worked with some of Canada's leading consumer packaged goods companies including British American Tobacco and Estee Lauder Cosmetics and has held a variety of leadership roles in Strategic Planning, Manufacturing Operations, Supply Chain Management, New Product Introduction and QA functions.

A graduate of Queen's University in Chemical Engineering, Tim also holds an MBA in finance from Wilfred Laurier University.

Sal Rabbani - Senior Partner – Consulting, BDC

In his current role as Senior Partner, Consulting – Toronto, Sal actively contributes to the mission of BDC Consulting by providing Advisory Services that increase the competitiveness of Canadian businesses, with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Sal is responsible for the effective coordination and completion of BDC's Advisory Services offerings in the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) and works closely with the Bank's functional areas and industry experts to ensure that the right mix of skills are in place to successfully complete each engagement. In addition, Sal is currently aligned to the Bank's Corporate Finance practice in Ontario and has responsibility to support the portfolio from an Advisory perspective.