



**Ryan Bekar** | *Business Development* | Yardi

Ryan Bekar leads Yardi's efforts to help support Canadian clients in improving their energy efficiency. Ryan works directly with Yardi clients to formulate and implement energy and sustainability strategies. He has spent the past 12 years within the software management business and improving access to actionable energy data. Outside of the energy technology space, Ryan spends his time coaching multiple soccer teams and spending time with his kids.



**Deborah Cohen** | *President* | PSN – Performance Network Solutions

As president of PSN - Performance Solutions Network, for the past 20 years', Deborah Cohen has worked with the multi-residential sector as a consultant, trainer and auditor. She has provided knowledge, expertise and a wide array of tools, training and industry-focused resources to property managers, governments and industry associations representing the rental housing, as well as the not-for profit, and co-op housing sectors.

Deborah has also worked extensively with FRPO - the Federation of Rental Housing providers of Ontario and its Canadian Certified Rental Building Program in conceptualizing, designing, and developing a host of standards of practice, industry leading benchmarks, audit protocols, interactive training and environmental engagement programs and in facilitating effective relations between property management, building staff and residents.



**John Dickie** | *President* | CFAA

John Dickie is the President of the Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations. In effect, John is CFAA's Executive Director, housing policy analyst and lobbyist. John also sits on the board of the Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO). Since its inception 32 years ago, John has led Ottawa's main apartment association, the Eastern Ontario Landlord Organization.

John has specialized in the field of landlord and tenant law for 40 years.

John is the senior partner of the law firm Dickie & Lyman LLP, in Ottawa, where John practices landlord and tenant law and government relations. John and his law partner, David Lyman, are the authors of Working with the Residential Tenancies Act, now in its fifth edition, which can be ordered on-line from Emond Publishing.

John has achieved numerous major advocacy successes for Ottawa landlords, and for CFAA and rental housing providers across Canada.



**Meirav Even-Har** | *National Manager, Wellness & Healthy Buildings* | QuadReal Property Group

Meirav is the National Manager, Wellness & Healthy Buildings at QuadReal Property Group, where she oversees occupant engagement in wellness and sustainability, Fitwel certification and benchmarking, and accessibility in the built environment. Her work focuses on a holistic approach that incorporates sustainability, healthy and accessible environments that are welcoming to all.

Prior to her current role at QuadReal, Meirav worked as Sustainability Manager, helping operationalize and embed environmental and wellness programs for QuadReal's Ontario office properties.

Before joining QuadReal, Meirav worked as an independent sustainability consultant and writer with a focus on the built environment. She also held management roles with Recycling Council of Ontario, BOMA Canada, and Canadian Business for Social Responsibility.

Meirav has a master's degree in International Relations from Norwich University, a graduate diploma in Corporate Social Responsibility from St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, as well as a BA in Environmental Resource Management.



#### **Drago Farsang | CIO | Wyse Meter Solutions**

Drago Farsang leads the direction, development and implementation of digital technology strategies for Wyse.

Mr. Farsang boasts an outstanding history championing innovative strategies in the automotive, retail, and financial sectors. His proven strengths include strategic management; organizational review; and technological innovation that ensures companies are both highly secure and capable of growth and transformation. He drives high-impact projects that yield greater technical/intellectual capital, risk-minded progress, and significant return on investment.

Prior to Wyse, Mr. Farsang was Vice President, Information Technology for Pfaff Automotive Partners, where he led IT strategy towards transforming and improving the company's technology infrastructure.

He earned a Master of Science, Executive Master in Technology Management degree from the Lazaridis School of Business & Economics at Wilfrid Laurier University.



#### **Joanna Frank | President & CEO | Center for Active Design, operator of Fitwel**

Joanna Frank is the Founding President & CEO of the Center for Active Design (CfAD), where she advances design and development practices to foster healthy and engaged communities. CfAD is the operator of Fitwel, a unique certification system originally developed by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fitwel has translated the global public health evidence base into practical design and operational strategies for buildings and communities to optimize health. Prior to launching CfAD, Ms. Frank worked for the City of New York during the Bloomberg Administration, where her positions included Director of Active Design and Director of the NYC FRESH program. Ms. Frank's career started in real estate development as a partner at Bright City Development, LLC where she was responsible for mixed-use residential projects that prioritized sustainable design. She is a member of the Urban Land Institute's Affordable/Workforce Housing Council and the National Council of State Housing Agencies' Advisory Group on Financing Healthier Affordable Housing, as well as an active partner in ULI's Building Healthy Places initiative. Ms. Frank was named in the 2021 Commercial Observer Power 100 which recognizes the 100 most influential real estate professionals in the United States.



#### **Tony Irwin | President & CEO | FRPO**

Tony Irwin is President & CEO at the Federation of Rental-Housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO). With 2,200 members, FRPO is the leading advocate for quality rental housing in Ontario. Before joining FRPO, Tony was President & CEO at the Canadian Consumer Finance Association; a national trade association representing businesses that provide a range of financial products to Canadians. Prior to his posting at CCFA, Tony held progressively senior roles in the financial services and insurance sectors. From 2005-2009 Tony served as Executive Director of the Justin Eves Foundation, a non-profit organization granting scholarships and bursaries to learning-disabled and disadvantaged young people to assist them to achieve a post-secondary education. Tony has also held key political roles and was Senior Advisor to an Ontario Premier and Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Official Opposition.



#### **Arun Pathak | President | HDAA**

Arun entered Property Management in 1985 and has managed apartment buildings and townhomes in Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville. He became an advocate for the industry around 1990 when he felt there was bad legislation introduced. He joined the Hamilton and District Apartment Association and became President in 2002, a post he has held until now, except for a short period last year, he also joined FRPO and was on the Board of Directors for over 15 years. He joined the Board of CFAA in the early 2000s. He has served on various committees with the City of Hamilton and the Region of Halton and has been in the media, TV, Radio, Newspapers etc. numerous times and made representations to various City Councils in the area and also to a number of Queens Park Committees.



#### **Ted Whitehead (Moderator) | Director of Certification | FRPO**

Ted has a Master of Business Administration focused in Organizational Development & General Studies from Queens University - Canada. He joined FRPO in April 2005 and took on the responsibilities for managing FRPO's industry accreditation program – Certified Rental Building™ program. This program was recently approved for national expansion in 2022 (Canadian Certified Rental Building program) and is a GRESB's-approved Real Estate Partner.