

Trustee Leadership Seminar

Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 (9:00am-4:00pm)

Room Stanley Park 1 @ The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver

Last update: February 8th, 2023

Lead Instructors:

Hugues Létourneau, Associate Director, Responsible Investment Leadership, SHARE

Tamara Herman, Associate Director, Capital Strategies, SHARE

Seminar Objectives:

- Delivering up to date examples of leading ESG policies, practices and impacts by pension funds in Canada and internationally.
- Sharing tools and tactics for trustees to advocate and press for improved ESG policies and practices at their pension funds.
- Offering opportunities for peer learning and networking with like-minded Canadian trustees with an interest in improving ESG strategies at their funds.

DAY PROGRAM	
8:30 am	Registration and Light Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 am	Introductions
9:15 – 9:45 am	<p>ESG in 2023: Panorama of Key Trends Relevant to Trustees</p> <p>This session will analyse headwinds and tailwinds related to ESG issues that are facing trustees in 2023. It will situate ESG issues in the current macroeconomic context (e.g., interest rate rises), review international trends related to sustainable finance (e.g., ESG backlash in the US) and highlight the growing expectations for ESG to deliver impact.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Ring, Assistant Director, Strategic Initiatives Department, Service Employees International Union • Hugues Létourneau, Associate Director, SHARE
9:45 – 10:15 am	<p>Update on ESG Policy and Regulation in Canada</p> <p>This session will provide an update on the efforts by Canadian pension regulators to issue a set of Guidelines touching on ESG issues, following on the 2022 public consultation.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damara Kiceniuk, Senior Risk Analyst, Pensions, BC Financial Services Authority
10:15 – 10:30 am	Wellness Break

10:30 – 11:15 am	<p>Trustee Panel: Leadership in Action</p> <p>This session will explore how trustees on different types of boards navigate governance structures and internal dynamics to raise ESG issues effectively. A panel of trustees will discuss how they work to ensure that their fund staff and/or asset managers respond appropriately to ESG issues.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Hendricks, Board Vice-Chair, California State Teachers Retirement System Board (CalSTRS) and asset owner board member, PRI • Bob Dhaliwal, Secretary Treasurer, ILWU Canada and lead trustee of the Longshore pension and benefit plans • Bert Blundon, President, NUPGE and board member of Provident 10
11:15 – 12:00 pm	<p>The “S” in ESG: Proxy voting and investment chain accountability</p> <p>As asset owners and managers turn more attention to the “S” in ESG, there has been a proliferation of shareholder resolutions that address social issues over the last three years. Exercising voting rights is an important means for investors to mitigate risks and seize opportunities related to social issues, including income inequalities, racial justice and precarious work. This session will provide an overview of key shareholder resolutions in the 2023 season before turning to an activity on proxy voting and chains of accountability in participants’ funds.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Couturier-Tanoh, Associate Director, SHARE • Emma Pullman, Capital Stewardship Officer, BC Government and Service Employees Union (BCGEU)
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 – 2:15 pm	<p>Trustees and Climate Risk: Acting and Communicating About the Transition</p> <p>This session will update trustees on growing expectations around climate risk mitigation and net-zero 2050 target adoption at pension funds. It will draw on examples of good practice in Canada and abroad, work through the sequencing of board action on climate risk, and illustrate how funds can communicate their approach to stakeholders effectively.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shannon Rohan, Chief Strategy Officer, SHARE
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Wellness Break
2:30 – 3:45 pm	<p>Using Accountability to Drive ESG Impact Across the Investment Chain</p> <p>This session will turn some of the key takeaways from earlier sessions into practical strategies for trustees to drive impacts and outcomes on ESG issues. It will assess the levies of power available to trustees and constraints depending on their funds’</p>

	<p>specific circumstances (e.g., internal or external asset management, large or small AUM).</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hugues Létourneau, Associate Director, SHARE
3:45 – 4:00 pm	Closing Remarks and Wrap Up