

Counsellors Bios

Steve Verheul: Steve Verheul is one of Canada's most accomplished and experienced trade negotiators. He has played a leading role in establishing Canada's vast and comprehensive free trade network which provides Canadian businesses with preferred access to markets around the world. He served as Canada's Chief Trade Negotiator for the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) as well as Chief Negotiator for the NAFTA modernization talks that led to the Canada-US-Mexico Trade Agreement (CUSMA).

Hon. James Moore: James Moore is strategic advisor to a variety of leading Canadian businesses and previously served as Canada's Minister of Industry in the Conservative government led by Stephen Harper. He was also Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, and Minister for the 2010 Olympics. He previously served on the NAFTA Council for the Government of Canada and has long advocated for pro-trade and pro-growth policies and his counsel is sought by business leaders around the world.

Hon. Jean Charest: Jean Charest has played a leading role in virtually every free trade negotiation Canada has ever concluded. From the original NAFTA to helping kickstart free trade talks with the European Union, Mr. Charest has always understood that Canada is a proud trading nation that must be at the forefront of free, open and rules-based trade around the world. In addition to serving as the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and later as the 29th Premier of Quebec from 2003 to 2012, he has long been a sought-after advisor on all issues pertaining to Canada's national interest.

Laura Dawson: Laura Dawson is a Canadian trade policy expert and dedicated advocate for cross-border business relations. She is the Executive Director of the Canada-U.S. Future Borders Coalition and formerly the Director of the Canada Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. Dawson has been an advisor to both the U.S. and Canadian governments on trade issues and is frequently cited in media for her expertise on Canada-U.S. trade and border security issues.

RJ Johnston: RJ Johnston is the Senior Director of Research at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, overseeing the Center's research strategy and operations. Previously, he was the founder and Managing Director of the Eurasia Group's Energy, Climate, and Resources practice and served as its CEO from 2013 to 2018. RJ has extensive expertise in global energy markets, having held leadership roles at Medley Global Advisors, UBS Warburg Energy, and Enron Global Markets. He is an advisor to the First Nations Climate Initiative and has contributed to major policy efforts, including the Aspen Institute Task Force on U.S. Critical Minerals Policy.

Adam Taylor: Adam Taylor has been a trusted advisor to a Canadian prime minister and several high-profile cabinet ministers, as well as to business leaders globally. As a senior advisor to former Conservative Trade Minister Ed Fast, Adam played a leading role as Canada successfully concluded free trade negotiations with the European Union, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and a variety of trade and investment treaties around the world. Adam is a founding partner at NorthStar Public Affairs and is a frequent media commentator on international trade and economic issues.