

Plenary Sessions

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Breakfast and registration

8:30 AM - 8:35 AM

Conference M.C. Welcome

Financial journalist and media personality Bruce Sellery will be our host for the day and will kick off the conference with welcoming remarks.

Speakers: Bruce Sellery

8:35 AM - 9:00 AM

Chair's Opening Keynote

The newly elected chair of IFIC's board of directors will set the tone and outline the themes that will be discussed throughout the day. The chair will review initiatives taken by the industry to collaborate with regulators and policymakers to enhance the integrity and growth of the industry and strengthen investor understanding and confidence.

Speakers: Ross Kappel

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Active or Passive: Dual or Duelling Strategies?

One of the most significant market trends everywhere is the rapid growth of passive investing. Active managers are being asked, now more than ever, to justify fund fees and explain the active value proposition. And while passive strategies grow quickly in popularity, there is concern on the margins about the efficiencies and risks associated with an increasingly passive market. Join recognized industry leaders as they share their perspectives on alpha and beta and everything in between.

Speakers: Yves Choueifaty, Alan Green, Mark Tiffin

Moderator: Bruce Sellery

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Morning Break

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10:15 AM - 11:00 AM

Leaders Panel

Disruption is the watchword of 2017. Hear how some of the industry's leading CEOs are meeting the challenges posed by shifting demographics, evolving consumer demand, technology and product innovation, fee compression, and regulators' increasing attention to investor outcomes. They'll tackle topics ranging from the prospect of an advice gap to the implications of an aging advisor workforce and reconciling investor demand for lower costs with the value proposition of active investing.

Speakers: Jonathan Durocher, Robert Frances, Rick Headrick

Moderator: Judy G. Goldring

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11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

International Panel

Global regulatory reform is driven by global demographic and economic trends but, internationally, regulators are taking different approaches. Learn how regulatory initiatives in the UK, the EU, the US and Canada are changing the face of the investment management industry.

Speakers: JP Bureaud, Tim Cameron, Adam Fairhead, Jonathan Lipkin

Moderator: Sian Burgess

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Lunch reception

12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

Lunch

1:20 PM - 2:00 PM

CMRA Update

The creation of a cooperative capital markets regulator is a complex endeavor requiring skill, patience and vision. In a conversation with IFIC CEO Paul Bourque, Capital Markets Regulatory Authority CEO Kevan Cowan will share his perspectives on the CMRA's progress toward implementation, projected timelines, it's interface with non-participating regulators, and the implications of a recent Quebec Court of Appeal opinion.

Speakers: Paul C. Bourque, Q.C. ICD.D, Kevin Cowan

Concurrent Featured Track Sessions

2:10 PM - 3:00 PM

Track One - Regulatory Update: What's Next?

The CSA is in the process of digesting 142 responses to their proposal to ban embedded commissions. Join us for an update on the progress of the CSA's review of feedback on 81-408 and the intersects between the reforms posed in 33-404 and 81-408. IFIC's response to 81-408 included several alternatives the industry believes can accomplish regulators' objectives with less disruption. We'll talk with IIROC about the path forward for two of IFIC's proposed alternatives: restricting Series A funds to channels that are allowed to provide advice, and permitting the sale of DSC funds within specified parameters only. In addition, our panelists will discuss current CSA and IIROC initiatives to reduce regulatory burden.

Speakers: Marsha Gerhart, Hugo Lacroix, John Mountain

Moderator: David Scandiffio

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2:10 PM - 3:00 PM

Track Two - Emerging Strategies to Lower Costs

Downward pressures on pricing, infinitely more sophisticated technologies and major regulatory changes are transforming the industry. Companies are responding with new strategies to create partnerships and with new technology applications to achieve greater efficiencies. Our panelists will talk about how they are challenging traditional business models to decrease overall costs for the benefit of the industry and its clients.

Speakers: Goshka Folda, Aparna Sachdeva, Subhas Sen, Michael Yee

Moderator: Carol Lynde

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2:10 PM - 3:00 PM

Track Three - What's New in Financial Fund Disclosure

Our panel of industry and accounting experts will lead us through a review of the latest changes impacting financial reporting for investment funds in Canada, including recent amendments to IFIC Guidelines as well as accounting and regulatory changes. This session will be of interest to anyone responsible for financial reporting of funds as well as those responsible for managing compliance with regulations pertaining to financial reporting.

Speakers: Justin Ashley, Eric Blackburn, Terry Rountes

Moderator: Chris Pitts

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3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Afternoon Break

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3:20 PM - 4:05 PM

Track One - Regulatory Update - What's Next? Part 2

Regulatory Priorities: Compliance is a subject that is currently on the minds of both regulators and the industry as a whole. In this session, panelists will share their top compliance priorities from a regulatory perspective, and discuss what their regulatory goals will be in the coming year. This panel will also explore emerging compliance issues and discuss next steps as to how the industry can maintain a strong and sustainable compliance culture.

Speaker: Janice Leung, Karen McGuinness, Felicia Tedesco

Moderator: Michael Stanley

3:20 PM - 4:05 PM

Track Two - The Brave New World of Fintech

Distributed ledger technology and artificial intelligence are going to transform the industry in ways that we can only begin to imagine. This new generation of the internet – the Internet of Value – has the potential to transform every aspect of commerce, including authentication and identification of people, clearing and settling, and record-keeping. Our panelists will provide insights into how emerging technologies could be applied to the funds industry.

Speakers: Amit Bhatia, Duncan Cameron, Arijit Das, Peter Patterson

Moderator: Joe Canavan

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3:20 PM - 4:05 PM

Track Three - The Changing Tax Environment for Canadian Investment Funds

IFIC has asked Finance Canada to consider amendments to Canada's investment management safe harbour rules and the taxation of non-resident investors in Canadian-based investment funds. The Co-Chairs of IFIC's International Competitiveness sub-group will explain how IFIC's recommendations would expand global business opportunities for Canadian fund managers and discuss the feedback we have received from the government to date.

In the second part of the session, experts from two of Canada's top law firms will discuss the facts of a pair of recent tax cases, the decisions and their potential impact on the mutual funds industry going forward.

Speakers: Nigel Johnston, Grace Pereira, Sky Schapiro, John J. Tobin

Moderator: Judy Lai

Closing Plenary

4:15 PM - 5:05 PM

Featured Speaker: Peter Zeihan

Geopolitical strategist Peter Zeihan is a global energy, demographic and security expert. His worldview marries the realities of geography and populations to provide a deep understanding of how global politics impacts markets and economic trends, to help industry leaders navigate today's complex mix of geopolitical risks and opportunities. With a keen eye toward what will drive tomorrow's headlines, his irreverent approach transforms topics that are normally dense and heavy into accessible, relevant takeaways.

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Keynote Speaker: Peter Zeihan

5:05 PM - 6:30 PM

Closing Remarks & Cocktail Reception

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Speakers: Bruce Sellery