

Speaker Bio's



Gabrielle Loren - Loren & Company

Gabrielle Loren is a Certified General Accountant and partner with Loren & Company. She obtained her designation after completing the experience portion of her designation with Revenue Canada Taxation. She was employed by the tax department for 8 years; 4 of which were completed in the audit division. During her term in the Audit Division she was fortunate to be assigned to audit a variety of small businesses, which gave her the necessary experience for her next career move. Gabrielle started as a home based accounting practice in 1989 with a handful of clients in varying industries. Over the past 18 years this client base has grown in both size and industries and evolved into Loren & Company in 1997. Her first employee became a partner in 2003 and now the firm consists of 13 individuals.



Natalie Michael - The Karmichael Group

Natalie Michael is an award winning HR professional, recruitment consultant and coach. She is currently the Managing Partner for The Karmichael Group, a firm that develops recruitment and retention practices that drive corporate performance.

Prior to founding the Karmichael Group, Natalie was a Lead Consultant with Caliber Leadership Systems. During the time of her employment, Caliber was rated as one of the fastest growing companies in BC three years in a row. Working with emerging and global clients, she designed integrated talent management systems.

Natalie has a Bachelor degree in Psychology from Simon Fraser University and she is a certified HR professional in Canada and the United States (SPHR, CHRP). She is also a Certified Coach (CPC) and holds a graduate certificate in Organizational Development (first class standing). She is currently completing her Masters Degree in Organizational Development from Fielding University.

Derek Gent - Vancity

Derek is an Investment Manager with Vancity Capital Corporation managing the Social Enterprise portfolio; he joined the team in 2001. Derek has years of experience working as Manager of Social responsibility and community. He also spent one year with an indigenous bank in Bangladesh. Derek has his masters of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Philosophy. Derek is also president of the Social Planning and Research council of BC and also teaches a sessional course in Development Finance at Simon Fraser University.

Erin Robinson - Vancity

Erin Robinson is Acting Program Manager of the Micro lending Programs within Community Business Banking at Vancity. Erin has been responsible for introducing of an innovative new service at Vancity -- a dedicated Energy Manager for members -- by building on a partnership between Vancity and BC Hydro. Prior to joining Vancity in 2004, Erin worked for the Vancouver Board of Trade's mentorship program -- Leaders of Tomorrow -- where she helped graduating students build the confidence and skills they need to begin their careers. A Spirit of Vancouver award winner (2002), her professional experience is complemented by a Bachelors of Business Administration from Capilano College and a Post-Bach diploma in Community Economic Development from Simon Fraser University.



Robert Ciccone

Success Unlimited Sales and Marketing Group Inc.

Robert Ciccone is a successful entrepreneur with ownership interests in several Vancouver-based companies and is the founder and President of Success Unlimited Sales and Marketing Group Inc.

Rob brings a 16-year proven track record to the clients with whom he works and to the programs he delivers, with extensive experience in front-line sales, management, marketing and business building.

In addition to his real-world experience and formal studies in business and economics, Rob's personal studies in management, training, psychology, coaching, communication, personal development and peak performance have enabled him to run and manage the business and marketing operations of national and international multi-million dollar companies.

Darryl Gant

Vancity

Darryl developed the Business Specialist role within Vancity Business Banking in 2005 and currently manages a team of 10 Business Specialists. Each Specialist is responsible for establishing and managing a portfolio of business clients. More than delivering business loans and lines of credit, Vancity Specialists strive to meet the unique needs of the business and the business owner. Previously, Darryl was an Account Manager with Vancity Business Banking since joining the Company in 1999. Darryl was born and raised on the West Coast and graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1989.

Ricardo Saenz-Saldana - Vancity

Ricardo is an Account Manager with Vancity Community Business Banking specializing in faith based, education, sports and recreation organizations. He has been with Vancity for 13 years and has experience with both personal and business banking. His extensive financial experience includes a certified Financial Planner designation, Bachelor in Business Administration and a Marketing Diploma. Ricardo strives to support and build strong business relationships with his members by providing innovative ideas and solutions.



Your Host

Dean Barbour Business Consultant Westcoast Community Enterprise

Dean Barbour is a business professional with an entrepreneur's flair for sales, a marketer's "outside of the box" creativity, and a proven track record in business research, start-up, implementation and growth. Dean has successfully completed contracts with Indigenous Business Network, the Great Canadian Casino, Hale Marketing, Drake International, and is currently the Self Employment Manager for Westcoast Community Enterprise. Dean also acts as the Director of Business Development for the BC Urban Entrepreneur Development Association. Dean is an accomplished speaker and presenter, and his positive, straight forward, and motivational approach has earned him rave reviews from attendees and participants in both Canada and the US.