Joel Spicer, M.P.H., MSc.
President, Micronutrient Initiative

Joel Spicer is the President of the Micronutrient Initiative. He is an established leader in global health, an innovator, visionary, and a Canadian with significant experience in international development that cuts across borders, sectors and agencies.

Joel has achieved success on many development issues, including nutrition and health initiatives, maternal, and child health programs, TB control and HIV programming, innovative financing and resource mobilization. He has a proven track record of success in expanding the relevance, reach, and impact of organizations. He achieves this through his strengths in negotiation; ability to forge alliances and build momentum across a wide array of political, corporate and public stakeholders; and to focus that energy on transforming the global conversation among key influencers.

As an accomplished professional, Joel has achieved results at numerous bilateral and multilateral agencies, including the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), where he began his career, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and others. In addition, he has served on the senior management team at the Stop TB Partnership. His far-ranging experience has included postings around the world, from Ottawa to Washington, Senegal to Indonesia, and, most recently, Geneva.

Joel attended the Harvard School of Public Health on a Fulbright scholarship where he obtained an MPH, International Health (Health Policy and Management), and also the London School of Economics and Political Science where he earned an M.Sc. in Development Studies. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of British Columbia in International Relations.

Her Excellency Mrs. Roman Tesfaye
First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Mrs. Roman Tesfaye has been the First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia since September 2012, following the national election for Prime Minister. A well-educated and active First Lady, Mrs. Roman holds two master’s degrees in economics and leadership. Prior to her position as First Lady, she served as the economic advisor of South Region’s administration. Mrs. Roman has also previously held high level roles within the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, and for two terms, Mrs. Roman served as an active member of Southern Regional State Parliament.

Utilizing her unique background and expertise, Mrs. Roman has focused her attention on building economic opportunities for Ethiopian women, addressing nutrition and education for youth, and promoting the global health initiative, Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon that combats
cervical and breast cancer, the leading causes of cancer deaths among women in sub-Saharan Africa.

Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma  
*African Union Commission Chairperson*

Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma is an undisputable trailblazer in the uplifting and empowerment of women across the African continent. Her career as a struggle activist and politician is testimony to her indestructible and courageous spirit. She was born at a time when black women’s career expectations did not go beyond domestic work. She, however, was not to be limited.

Dr. Dlamini Zuma became an active underground member of the ANC. She was also a member of the South African Students Organisation and was elected as its deputy president in 1976. During the same year, she fled into exile, completing medical studies at the University of Bristol in the UK in 1978. After the 1994 elections, Dr. Dlamini Zuma was appointed as Minister of Health in the cabinet of then President Nelson Mandela. During her tenure, she de-segregated the health system and championed the radical health reforms which introduced access to free basic healthcare. In 1999, then President Thabo Mbeki appointed Dr. Dlamini Zuma as Minister of Foreign Affairs. In this role, she actively championed South Africa’s foreign policy which centered on the promotion of human rights, stability, peace, collective development and advancement of this continent.

In 2009, she was appointed Minister of Home Affairs and brought about radical change in the department, which subsequently achieved a clean audit for the first time in many years in 2011. In July 2012, Dr. Dlamini Zuma was elected Chairperson of the African Union Commission by the Heads of State in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She is the first woman to lead the continental organization, including its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity. This was a major achievement in the sense that for the first time since the formation of the Organisation for African Unity, which became the African Union, a woman and indeed a candidate of the southern region was successfully elected to this high post.

Her Excellency Dr. Dlamini Zuma is doing exceptional life’s work to the cause of freedom for the people of South Africa and the development and consolidation of our democracy in the quest to create a better life for all Africans.

Dr. Meera Shekar  
*Global Lead, Nutrition, World Bank*

Dr. Meera Shekar is Global Lead and Lead HNP Specialist with the World Bank’s Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice. Over the last several years, she has led the repositioning of the nutrition agenda within the World Bank and with partners that led to the new global Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) initiative. The SUN movement is now supported by over 54 client countries and over a hundred global partners. Meera has been one of the principals for the emerging aid-architecture for the SUN, and the G8 and G20 agenda-setting process for food security and nutrition over the last several years. She leads the global and country-level SUN costing and financing
analyses in the World Bank. She also works on analytics and operations on the demographic dividend and population and development issues.

Meera has lived and worked across the globe and has extensive operational experience in India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Vietnam, Bolivia, Guatemala, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Before joining the World Bank in 2003, she led UNICEF’s Health, Nutrition and Water and Sanitation teams in Tanzania and the Philippines. Meera has a PhD in international nutrition, epidemiology and population studies from Cornell University and has consulted extensively including with JHU Population Communications Services and Population Services International. Among other publications, she is the author of the health chapter in the World Bank’s flagship report entitled eTransform Africa: the Transformational use of Information and Communication Technologies in Africa, 2012; Repositioning Nutrition as Central to Development, 2006; and Scaling-up Nutrition – What will it cost 2009? Meera is an Adjunct professor at Tufts University, USA, and has been a guest speaker at several G8 preparatory events including the G8 parliamentarians’ conference in Canada.

**Dr. Robert Hecht**
*Managing Director, Results for Development*

Dr. Robert Hecht is a Managing Director at the Results for Development Institute in Washington, D.C. He oversees a portfolio analyzing policy barriers and solutions related to AIDS, malaria, immunization, nutrition, and national health insurance in developing countries. His team’s work focuses on major challenges and opportunities in global health including financial forecasting for health program scale up, monitoring expenditures and assessing efficiency, and assisting countries and their donor partners in the process of transition from dependence on external support to national self-reliance.

Before coming to Results for Development, Rob had a 20 year tenure at the World Bank, where he occupied a series of senior posts including director of the Bank's central unit for Health, Nutrition, and Population, chief of operations for the Human Development Network, principal economist in the Latin America region, and member of the core team and a lead author of the 1993 World Development Report, "Investing in Health."

He also served as a director at the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) from 1998-2001, where he published a series of papers that helped to spawn the Global Fund, PEPFAR, and the scale up of AIDS treatment and prevention programs worldwide; and as Senior Vice President for Policy and Communications at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative from 2004-08, where he pioneered the development of policies to stimulate R&D and finance the launch and scale up of new vaccines, leading to the creation of the Advance Market Commitment for the pneumococcal vaccine and the Global Health Financing Facility for health R&D.

Rob is the author of more than 40 articles and other publications. He received his undergraduate degree from Yale and his doctorate from Cambridge University. During the Fall 2014 semester, Rob was a visiting professor in global health at Yale’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs and a Fellow of the Yale Global Health Leadership Initiative.
His Excellency Ahmed Shide  
*State Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*

His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Shide Mohamed serves as the State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia. The Ministry, besides allocating budget, introduces new and efficient ways of utilizing resources to both federal and regional governments. A “Pool Service”, is one of the ministry’s innovations.

The ministry has recently introduced Financial Administration Proclamation and Procurement and property Administration Proclamation Amendment drafts. The amendment proclamations enables the country to close the gaps that might be observed in the finance, procurement and property management of the nation and to create internationally accepted financial working system.

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Hon. Christian Paradis  
*Canadian International Development Minister and Chair, WEF-OECD Redesigning Development Finance Initiative*

Christian Paradis was first elected to the House of Commons on January 23, 2006, as the Member of Parliament for the riding of Megantic–L’Érable. He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources on February 7, 2006, and subsequently appointed to the Cabinet as Secretary of State (Agriculture) on January 4, 2007.

On June 25, 2008, he was appointed Minister of Public Works and Government Services, while remaining Secretary of State (Agriculture). In October 2008, he was re-elected MP for Mégantic–L’Érable for a second term. On October 30, 2008, he was appointed Minister of Public Works and Government Services, Minister responsible for the Montreal region and the Prime Minister's Quebec political lieutenant.

On January 19, 2010, he was appointed Minister of Natural Resources, all the while keeping his responsibilities of Quebec lieutenant to the Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Montreal. On May 2, 2011, voters in Mégantic—L’Érable sent Mr. Paradis to the House of Commons for a third term. On May 18, 2011, he became Minister of Industry and Minister of State (Agriculture). On July 15, 2013, he became Minister of International Development and La Francophonie.

Mr. Paradis studied law and practised corporate law for a number of years in his hometown of Thetford Mines. Very active in his community at the grassroots level, he has been involved in various organizations, including the Amiante chapter of the Management Club of Canada, the Rotary Club and the Amiante Chamber of Commerce and Industry. There is no doubt that Christian Paradis is deeply committed to achieving a higher profile for his region and ensuring its advancement and development. Christian Paradis is married to Julie Roberge and has three children: Charles, Gilbert and Sophie.
Dr. Caroline Anstey  
*Global Head, UBS and Society UBS*

Dr. Caroline Anstey is the Global Head UBS and Society. The UBS and society program is cross-divisional and covers all of the UBS activities and capabilities in the areas of sustainable investing, philanthropy, environmental and human rights policies and community investment. Caroline has extensive experience in the areas of development, finance and communications. In her recent role she served as counselor to the president of the Inter-American Development Bank. Before that, she worked at the World Bank for over 18 years in various roles, including as managing director with responsibility for operational policy and as a member of the World Bank Group senior management team. She also served as World Bank representative to the intergovernmental G20 and the G7. Prior to joining the World Bank, she was a Senior Producer and Editor at the BBC. Caroline has a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a postdoctoral research fellowship from Oxford University.

José Andrés Botrán Briz  
*President, Compañía Agrícola Industrial Santa Ana, Guatemala*

He was born in Guatemala City on July 7, 1962. He earned a degree in Industrial Engineering from Boston University. He participated in the Center for National Strategic Studies (ESTNA), where he took courses with members of various sectors of Guatemalan society to generate a shared vision of the country. Andrés worked in Paris and New York as a sugar merchandising specialist worldwide for French and American companies and later founded his own marketing/merchandising company in Guatemala as the agent of Amerop Sugar Corporation and later Czarnikow Rionda. Afterwards, he became involved in real estate projects for different segments. He introduced the subject of hunger at the private sector level in 2001 as a member of the Chamber of Industry, and he represented such entity in the Guatemalan Forum from 2001 to 2004. He worked for the public sector starting in 2004 as Commissioner of the National Front Against Hunger. In this role, he began the process of creation, consultation and approval of the National Policy and the Law on Food Security and Nutrition which was unanimously approved by the Congress in May 2005, being the first law that addresses the issue systemically in Latin America. He then was appointed Secretary of Food Security and Nutrition and was nominated in 2007 for the World Food Prize, award that recognizes the best initiatives that work towards strengthening food and nutrition at a worldwide level. Andrés is a Fellow from the third class of the Central America Leadership Initiative (CALI) and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. He is also a member of the Alliance for Nutrition of FUNDESA. He has been a spokesperson in conferences all around the world to address the issue of world hunger and malnutrition, and has provided consulting and supported several Latin American governments in the topic.
Dr. Ayo Ajayi
Africa Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr. Ayo Ajayi is director of the Africa Team, leading the foundation’s work on policy, advocacy, and government relations across the continent, as well as the foundation’s offices in Ethiopia, South Africa, and Nigeria.

Dr. Ajayi joined the foundation in 2014 from PATH, where he served as Vice President for International Development. He led strategy development and implementation for PATH country programs in Africa, as well as in Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. Before joining PATH, Dr. Ajayi served as regional director for sub-Saharan Africa for the Population Council for 16 years, leading the establishment of the organization’s presence and programmatic work in reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, social science and operations research, and institutional capacity building in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa. Before that, he served as regional director for Africa for Pathfinder International leading its work in family planning and reproductive health in several African countries.

Dr. Ajayi earned his MD from the University of Ibadan Medical School in Nigeria and his MPH with a concentration in health systems from Boston University School of Public Health.

Dana J. Hyde
Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation

Dana J. Hyde, a former State Department and White House official, brings to MCC more than 20 years of experience in law and public policy, with expertise in economic growth and resource management in the United States and around the globe. As Associate Director at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Ms. Hyde led a team that managed more than $150 billion in budgetary resources across six cabinet agencies and helped make difficult choices at a time of increasingly limited resources.

Ms. Hyde came to OMB from the State Department, where she led the establishment of the Office of Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources and went on to serve as Senior Advisor to Deputy Secretary Jack Lew. At State, Ms. Hyde helped bring reform and innovation to U.S. diplomacy and development efforts around the globe, including developing country-owned, country-led initiatives to improve health in the developing world, contributing to the first Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review and strengthening the lifesaving work of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Earlier in her career, Ms. Hyde served as counsel to the 9/11 Commission, investigating the immediate response of the White House, the Defense Department and the Federal Aviation Administration to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Ms. Hyde also worked in the White House, where she coordinated policy and outreach initiatives for federal agencies handling national security and trade policy as Special Assistant to the President for Cabinet Affairs.

As an attorney, Ms. Hyde practiced in London as a member of WilmerHale’s international arbitration group and in Washington, D.C. as a litigation associate at Zuckerman Spaeder. Ms. Hyde also worked at the Justice Department, serving as special assistant to two deputy attorneys general.

Ms. Hyde is a graduate of Georgetown Law School and holds a B.A. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is married and the mother of two young boys.