



# MF

Master of Finance

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## 2020-2021

Academic Handbook



Student Services & International Relations  
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## Disclaimer

The material contained in this Handbook has been submitted by the administrative departments and academic units concerned. All general information and course references have been checked for accuracy as much as possible. If errors or inconsistencies do occur, please bring these to the attention of the responsible department. York University reserves the right to make changes to the information contained in this publication without prior notice.

It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves each year with the information contained in this handbook, as well as with any additional regulations relating to academic policy as communicated by the Division of Student Services and International Relations in the Schulich School of Business.

It is the responsibility of all students to be familiar with the specific requirements associated with the degree, diploma or certificate sought. While advice and counseling are available, it is the responsibility of each student to ensure that the courses in which registration is affected are appropriate to the program requirements of the Schulich School of Business.

While the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and classes as required within programs, student should note that admission to a degree or other program does not guarantee admission to any given course or class.

Every student agrees by the act of registration to be bound by the regulations and policies of York University and of the Schulich School of Business.

In the event of an inconsistency between the general academic regulations and policies published in student handbooks and calendars, and such regulations and policies as established by the Schulich School of Business and Senate, the version of such material as established by the Schulich School of Business and the Senate shall prevail.

## York University Policies

York University disclaims all responsibility and liability for loss or damage suffered or incurred by any student or other party as a result of delays in or termination of its services, courses, or classes by reason of force majeure, fire, flood, riots, war, strikes, lock-outs, damage to University property, financial exigency or other events beyond the reasonable control of the University.

York University disclaims any and all liability for damages arising as a result of errors, interruptions or disruptions to operations or connected with its operations or its campuses, arising out of computer failure or non-compliance of its computing systems.

York University is a smoke-free institution. Smoking is permitted in designated areas only.

## Important Websites

Resource	URL	Go here for...
The Schulich School of Business official website	<a href="http://schulich.yorku.ca">schulich.yorku.ca</a>	Program Information, Financial Aid, International Opportunities, Career Development Centre, MySchulich student portal
Schulich Current Graduate Students page	<a href="http://schulich.yorku.ca/current-students/graduate-students">schulich.yorku.ca/current-students/graduate-students</a>	Important Dates, Course Offerings, Wait List, Upcoming Events, Enrolment Details, Academic Petitions and Appeals
Schulich Graduate Blog	<a href="http://gradblog.schulich.yorku.ca">gradblog.schulich.yorku.ca</a>	Student stories, Regular updates about courses, important dates, enrolment and events
York Online Services	<a href="http://currentstudents.yorku.ca">currentstudents.yorku.ca</a>	Enrolment & fees, Housing & Transportation, Academic Regulations & Grade Reports
York Counseling & Disability Services	<a href="http://cds.info.yorku.ca">cds.info.yorku.ca</a>	Resources for academic and personal development, individual and group counselling, Learning Skills Workshops
Graduate Business Council	<a href="http://gbcschulich.com">gbcschulich.com</a>	Mission statement, executive reps, student clubs, services and events

## Can't find what you're looking for? Check the Graduate Policy Handbook!



Review important information about:

- tuition and fees
- scholarships and financial aid
- exams, grades and conduct
- petitions and appeals
- student services and enrolment
- student life and clubs
- libraries, transit, childcare, health services

Available on your [MySchulich Student Portal](#) under "My Links."

## 2020-2021 Sessional Dates

Fall 2020			
Activity	Term F2	Term A	Term M
	<i>Most 3.00 credit courses</i>	<i>First-half 1.50 credit courses</i>	<i>Second-half 1.50 credit courses</i>
Class Start Date	Sept 14	Sept 14	Nov 2
Class End Date	Dec 11	Oct 26	Dec 11
Reading Week	Oct 27-30	n/a	n/a
Examinations	Dec 12-18	Oct 27-30	Dec 12-18
Last date to enrol without permission	Sept 18	Sept 18	Nov 6
Last date to enrol with permission	Sept 25	Sept 25	Nov 13
Last date to drop courses without academic penalty	Nov 13	Oct 9	Nov 27

Winter 2021			
Activity	Term W2	Term C	Term N
	<i>Most 3.00 credit courses</i>	<i>All first-half 1.50 credit courses</i>	<i>All second-half 1.50 credit courses</i>
Class Start Date	Jan 11	Jan 11	Mar 1
Class End Date	Apr 12	Feb 22	Apr 12
Reading Week	Feb 23-26	n/a	n/a
Examinations	Apr 17-23	Feb 23-26	Apr 17-23
Last date to enrol without permission	Jan 15	Jan 15	Mar 5
Last date to enrol with permission	Jan 22	Jan 22	Mar 12
Last date to drop courses without academic penalty	Mar 12	Feb 5	Mar 26

### Summer 2021

Summer 2021 dates will be added to the Key Dates website once available. Visit <https://schulich.yorku.ca/current-students/graduate-students/key-dates>.

## 2020-2021 Important Dates

Date	Reminder
September 7	Labour Day, University closed
September 10	Last day to pay Fall 2020 fees without financial penalty
September 14	Fall 2020 classes begin
October 12	Thanksgiving, University closed
Mid-October	October 2020 convocation (date TBA)
October 27-30	Reading Week. No classes, University open
December 11	Last day of Fall 2020 classes
December 12-18	Examination Week, Term F2
TBA	Winter Break, University closed
January 10	Last day to pay Winter 2020 fees without financial penalty
January 11	Winter 2021 classes begin
February 15	Family Day, University closed
February 23-26	Reading Week. No classes, University open
April 2	Good Friday, University closed
April 12	Last day of Winter 2021 classes
April 17-23	Examination Week, Term W2
Late June	June 2021 convocation (date TBA)
July 31	Deadline to apply for October 2021 convocation

Find Important Dates online!  
[schulich.yorku.ca/current-students/graduate-students/key-dates](https://schulich.yorku.ca/current-students/graduate-students/key-dates)



## Contact Us

The School's Division of Student Services & International Relations should be consulted on questions related to admissions, enrolment, registration, grade or course problems, financial assistance or special advising.

Meet us online!  
[schulich.yorku.ca/student-enrolment-services](https://schulich.yorku.ca/student-enrolment-services)



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### Program Director

#### Melanie Cao

BSc & MA (HUST, China);  
 MBA (Ottawa); PhD  
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### Program Assistant

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### Academic Advising

Fern Best  
 Student & Enrolment  
 Services  
[fbest@schulich.yorku.ca](mailto:fbest@schulich.yorku.ca)

## Enrolment

### Registration and Enrolment

- The course enrolment process at York is completed by students online
- The process of making enrolment changes at York is also automated (e.g. changing course sections, substituting one course for another by dropping one and adding another, or dropping a course)
- Students without immediate access to a computer may use on-campus terminals, including the library, computer lab, or the computers in Schulich Student & Enrolment Services Office, W263
- Students normally enrol for Summer term courses in March and for Fall and Winter courses in June
- Enrolment is on a first-come, first-served basis
- Students cannot add or drop courses after the enrolment deadline.

### Enrolment Blocks

All students having an outstanding balance of \$1,000.00 or more will be blocked from enrolling in the Summer, Fall and/or Winter terms.

### Enrolment Access Notification

A student's Enrolment Access Period begins on the date and time posted online at [currentstudents.yorku.ca](https://currentstudents.yorku.ca). Enrolment access start dates are posted on the Registrar's Office website [registrar.yorku.ca](https://registrar.yorku.ca) by selecting "Find out when I can enrol". Enrolment access times are determined according to the number of completed credits a student obtains. Schulich access periods begin on different days. Students with the highest number of credits completed begin first. Once the enrolment access has begun, it continues until the final date to enrol in courses for that term. **We recommend that students enrol as early as possible once their access period begins.** Students are encouraged to verify their enrolment periodically online.

### Enrolment in MATH Courses

To enrol in MATH courses offered at York University:

- Well in advance of the start of term (at least 4 to 6 weeks), print the request form to enrol in Graduate Courses at York from the [Graduate Academic Forms database](#) on your MySchulich student portal

- Submit the completed form to the Student & Enrolment Services Office, W263
- Once approved by Schulich, the form will be sent to the home department of the course you wish to take
- Upon approval by both Faculties, you will be notified by e-mail to enrol online

### Course Offerings And Withdrawals

The Master of Finance is a one year, full-time program with a specialized set of courses. Students are not permitted to take additional courses within the Master of Finance program at Schulich or out of Faculty, except MATH courses specified in the Financial Risk Management field.

### Course Withdrawals

- Dropping one or more courses will prevent a full-time student from completing an MF degree program within the prescribed program length and may result in withdrawal from the program
- See your academic advisor ahead of time to discuss the implications of dropping a course
- This program is currently offered on a full-time basis only

### Course Cancellations

If a course is cancelled, Student & Enrolment Services immediately informs those enrolled via their Schulich e-mail.

### Revised Course Offerings

Revisions to course offerings are also posted on the [Schulich Course Offerings database](#).

Revisions can include: cancelled courses, new courses, schedule changes (date, time, room) and new instructors.

Additional enrolment information can be found in the Graduate Academic Policy Handbook: [schulich.yorku.ca/handbooks](https://schulich.yorku.ca/handbooks).

Enrolment updates are also communicated to students via their academic advisors and e-mail updates from the Director, Student & Enrolment Services.

# Master of Finance (MF)

Due to increasing competition in the marketplace, analysts and dealmakers alike require more focused knowledge and accreditation than ever before. Schulich's Master of Finance program is designed to provide students with an intensive training in finance that is both practical and intellectually challenging. The course work is enhanced by regular research as well as professional seminars, taking advantage of the business community in Toronto and the Schulich alumni network. The Schulich Master of Finance opens up career options ranging from investment banking and asset management to private equity firms, hedge funds, consulting firms and government agencies. The program also serves as an excellent foundation for students considering a PhD in finance.

## PROGRAM LENGTH

The MF is a 12-month full-time program

- no advanced standing will be given to students in the MF program
- part-time study options are not available
- extensions to program length will only be granted by petition to the Student Affairs Committee

## Academic Advisor

Fern Best  
Student Success Coordinator  
fbest@schulich.yorku.ca

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- successful completion of all courses including:
  - 27.00 credits of core courses
  - 12.00 credits of Stream courses
- successful completion of Research and Professional Seminars Series
- grade point average (GPA) of at least 4.40 (B-)

## ORIENTATION

- Attendance is mandatory for MF orientation in early September

## Career Opportunities

Your Schulich MF program will open up opportunities for you in Investment Banking, Private Equity, Consulting, Risk Management, Market Risk, Fixed Income and Asset Management among others. Coupled with your financial modeling training and Bloomberg learning, you will bring a new level of financial expertise to your career.

## Career Development Centre Industry Advisor

Mike Nadal, ACC  
mnadal@schulich.yorku.ca

*"The Schulich Master of Finance offered me the chance to explore different topics in the financial industry, discover my interests, and gain the skills to realize my ambition."*

- Fred Wang (MF '17)  
Credit Analyst,  
Moneris

## Program Partnerships

The Master of Finance is a proud program partner of the Financial Risk Manager (FRM) designation offered by the Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP) and the Charter Financial Analysts (CFA) Institute, the global industry standard for finance professionals. The MF curriculum prepares students for both the FRM and CFA designations.



## Promotion Standards

1. Master of Finance students will be reviewed as follows to determine whether or not they have met promotion requirements below:
  - Initial review upon completion of Term 2
  - Subsequent review at the end of each following term
2. To maintain their standing in the program, all students must maintain a GPA of at least 4.20 and not receive a grade of F in more than 3.00 credits of course work.
3. Students who do not meet these requirements will be withdrawn.
4. Students who fail a required course must retake it. Students who fail an elective course may retake it, or may elect to take another course. Students who retake a failed course and receive a second failing grade will be withdrawn.
5. A student who has been withdrawn from the program is advised to seek the help of a Student & Enrolment Services advisor to discuss the best way forward. The student may petition to the Student Affairs Committee to be allowed to continue the program without having met the promotion requirements.

## Probationary Admittance and Promotion Standards

In some instances, the Schulich Admissions Committee may recommend admission for an applicant who demonstrates considerable academic or professional ability, but does not quite satisfy the normal requirements for admission. The committee makes such admissions decisions very selectively. Such applicants are admitted as probationary students and will be reviewed for promotion at the end of Term 1. The "Promotion Standards" process applies.



Find Program Details Online!  
[schulich.yorku.ca/programs/mf](https://schulich.yorku.ca/programs/mf)



## MF Teaching Faculty

The teaching, research and consulting activities of finance faculty members are numerous and cover the fields of investments, financial engineering, financial services, corporate finance, governance, and regulation. The work of the faculty brings theoretical rigour to practical applications. Specific research interests include the effect of thin trading on stock prices, the management of financial institutions, the application of financial theory to the development of new products, hedge funds, executive compensation, IPOs, market volatility, asset pricing and portfolio management. The finance faculty have won numerous awards for their work and are in high demand by practitioners from across Canada.

### Program Director

#### Melanie Cao

BSc & MA (HUST, China);  
MBA (Ottawa); PhD  
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Professor of Finance

#### Andrew Aziz

B.Sc. (McMaster); MBA  
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Sessional Lecturer in  
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#### Kee-Hong Bae

BS & MS (Korea, Korea);  
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Professor of Finance  
Bob Finlayson Chair in  
International Finance

#### Ming Dong

BS (Fudan, China);  
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Associate Professor of  
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#### Pouyan Foroughi

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Associate Professor of  
Finance

### Moshe Arye Milevsky

BA (Yeshiva);  
MA & PhD (York)  
Professor of Finance

### Lilian Ng

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(Binghamton); PhD  
(Wharton)  
Professor of Finance  
Scotiabank Chair in  
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### Gregory Pau

BBA & MBA (York)  
Sessional Lecturer in  
Finance

### Eliezer Z. Prisman

BA (Hebrew, Israel); MSc  
& DSc (Technion, Israel)  
Professor of Finance  
Nigel Martin Chair in  
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### Aleksandra Rzeźnik

BSc & MSc (Frankfurt);  
PhD (Copenhagen)  
Assistant Professor of  
Finance

### Pauline Shum Nolan

BA Hons (UBC); MA & PhD  
(Toronto)  
Professor of Finance

### Yisong S. Tian

BSc (Nankai, China);  
MBA & PhD (York)  
Professor of Finance

### David Yu

BA & MSc (McGill); CFA  
Sessional Lecturer in  
Finance

## MF at a Glance

Term 1: Fall	
MFIN 5100 3.00 Capital Markets	<input type="checkbox"/> common core courses <input type="checkbox"/> stream courses
ACTG 6130 3.00 Intermediate Financial Accounting For Finance Majors	
FINE 6310 3.00 Econometrics Of Financial Markets	
MFIN 5200 3.00 Financial Management And Valuation	
MFIN 5600 3.00 Institutional Wealth Management	
MFIN 5000 0.00 Research Seminar Series (Compulsory Non-Credit)	
MFIN 5050 0.00 Professional Seminar Series (Compulsory Non-Credit)	

Capital Markets Stream	Financial Risk Management (FRM) Stream**
Term 2: Winter	
FINE 6800 3.00 Options, Futures and Other Derivative Securities	FINE 6800 3.00 Options, Futures and Other Derivative Securities
MFIN 5000 0.00 Research Seminar Series	MFIN 5000 0.00 Research Seminar Series
MFIN 5050 0.00 Professional Seminar Series	MFIN 5050 0.00 Professional Seminar Series
MFIN 5300 3.00 Investment Banking	FNEN 6850 3.00 Fixed Income Securities
MFIN 5400 3.00 Fixed Income Securities	FINE 6600 3.00 Corporate Financial Analysis
ENTR 6910 3.00 Venture Capital And Private Equity	MATH 6910 3.00 Stochastic Calculus in Finance
Term 3: Summer	
MFIN 5500 3.00 Analysis Of Structured Products Using Excel	MFIN 5500 3.00 Analysis Of Structured Products Using Excel
MFIN 5700 1.50 Corporate Governance And Securities Law	MFIN 5700 1.50 Corporate Governance And Securities Law
MFIN 5800 3.00 Financial Risk Management	MFIN 5800 3.00 Financial Risk Management
MFIN 5900 1.50 Ethical Decision Making for Finance Professionals	MFIN 5900 1.50 Ethical Decision Making for Finance Professionals
FINE 6600 3.00 Corporate Financial Analysis	FNEN 6820 3.00 Advanced Derivative Securities

\*\* Approval is required to continue with the FRM stream.  
Application details will be sent to all students in the Fall term.

# Course Descriptions

**NOTE:** Not all courses listed are offered every term. For full and up to date course details, visit the [Schulich Course Offerings database](#).

## ACTG 6130 3.00 Intermediate Financial Accounting for Finance Majors

This course is meant specifically for non-accountants who want a broader understanding of accounting issues and how they impact financial statements. This course covers both sides of the balance sheet focusing on understanding the impact of the issues on the financial statements instead of the detailed technical application. This course is not recognized as a course by the accounting designations.

**Prerequisite:** MFIN 5100 3.00

## ENTR 6910 3.00 Venture Capital and Private Equity

This course is primarily geared to students interested in working in venture capital or other private equity organizations at some point in their careers. It is also valuable for those who intend to work alongside venture capitalists as managers of firms being financed by such investors and for students interested in applying aspects of private equity investing to established organizations. The course is divided into 4 modules focusing on the venture capital cycle including fundraising, investing, and exiting. In the final module the course explores new frontiers in venture capital including corporate venturing. Throughout the course we touch on career issues with respect to private equity.

## FINE 6310 3.00 Econometrics of Financial Markets

This empirical methods course focuses on the statistical techniques that are most often used in the analysis of financial markets. The list of topics include: statistical properties of asset returns, tests of asset pricing models, efficient market hypothesis, event study methodology, simulation methods, panel data analysis, and volatility estimation such as GARCH, value-at-risk, and time-varying correlations.

## FINE 6600 3.00 Corporate Financial Analysis

This course uses principles of economics, finance and accounting to examine problems in topics such as cash flow analysis, ratio analysis, strategic financial planning, interpretation of annual reports and prospectuses, economic modeling and business valuation. Students must deal with multifaceted, ambiguous problems similar to real world situations. The well-behaved data and simplifying assumptions used in theory courses are discarded in favour of the realistic, complex data in annual reports and other sources of financial information.

**Prerequisites:** MFIN 5200 3.00.

## FINE 6800 3.00 Options, Futures and Other Derivative Securities

This course explains the way in which derivative securities such as options, futures contracts, forward contracts, swaps and interest rate caps can be valued. It discusses arbitrage relationships, risk, neutral valuation, the creation of options synthetically, numerical procedures and the evaluation of credit risk.

**Prerequisite:** MFIN 5600 3.00

## FNEN 6820 3.00 Advanced Derivative Securities

This course covers a list of advanced topics in derivative securities with a focus on pricing and hedging. Students are assumed to have taken an introductory course in derivatives. The objective of this course is to develop modeling skills needed to value the full range of derivative securities: from exchange-traded options to over-the-counter products including exotic options, embedded options and credit derivatives. The fundamental theory is the Equivalent Martingale Pricing Principle or the Risk-neutral valuation by no-arbitrage. Analytical models and various numerical methods will be discussed in detail. It is assumed that students are familiar with the Black-Scholes and binomial pricing models.

**Prerequisites:** FINE 6800 3.00

## FNEN 6850 3.00 Fixed Income Securities

Provides an opportunity to learn the various features and unique characteristics of fixed income securities and markets, analyze and evaluate fixed income securities, and develop tools for managing interest rate risk and other applications. Computer assisted (e.g., Excel and VBA) applications are used throughout the course to enhance student learning experience, with both hands-on in-class exercises and assigned homework problems.

**Prerequisite:** MFIN 5600 3.00

**Corequisite:** FINE 6800 3.00

## MFIN 5000 0.00 Research Seminar Series

The seminars enhance the core curriculum and provide students with an opportunity to dialogue with leading academic scholars in the field, and learn about their current research. These seminars constitute an important part of the research component in the Master of Finance program. Attendance is mandatory.

## MFIN 5050 0.00 Professional Seminar Series

The seminars complement the core curriculum and provide students with an opportunity to dialogue with industry experts from different areas of finance, and discuss career opportunities. Attendance is mandatory.

## MFIN 5100 3.00 Capital Markets

This course provides an in-depth analysis of the foundations of the capital markets, financial securities, empirical work, and practice. This first finance course in the Master in Finance program provides the basic economic intuition and fundamental derivations of financial models and valuation framework, as well as the essential practical side of the concepts and financial models.

**Prerequisites:** A working knowledge of calculus and basic econometrics (OLS regressions) will be necessary.

## MFIN 5200 3.00 Financial Management and Valuation

The three fundamental corporate finance decisions, the investment decision, the financing decision and the dividend decision, are studied in this course. Students will examine both theories of these decisions and the application of the theories to real businesses. In addition, business valuation concepts and tools will be studied and applied to real businesses.

**Prerequisite:** MFIN 5100 3.00

**Corequisite:** ACTG 6120 3.00

## MFIN 5300 3.00 Investment Banking

The objective of this course is to provide an advanced analysis of the major issues affecting the financial policy of a modern corporation and the role of investment banks in facilitating those policies. We will discuss issues such as the Going-public decision of a firm and its Initial Public Offering (IPO), Security Issuance decisions such as SEOs, other corporate restructurings and M&As, impact of corporate governance on such decisions, roles played by Analysts and Institutional Investors and their impact on such decisions and how Investment Banks take all these into account when they advise firms on these decisions.

**Prerequisite:** MFIN 5100 3.00, MFIN 5200 3.00 In addition, a working knowledge of basic econometrics (OLS regressions) will be necessary.

## MFIN 5400 3.00 Fixed Income Securities

This is an introduction to the management of fixed income markets and interest rate derivative securities. Major topics covered include term structure theories, institutional settings of the fixed income markets, and analytical tools for managing interest rate risk. It not only emphasizes traditional management methods such as duration and immunization, but also cutting edge approaches such as continuous-time, dynamic management techniques of interest rate risk.

**Prerequisite:** MFIN 5200 3.00

**Corequisite:** FINE 6800 3.00

## MFIN 5500 3.00 Analysis of Structured Products Using Excel

This course will function as a hands-on research practicum in which 3-4 "live" structured products will be brought into the classroom and analyzed using the tools of financial economics. And, given the advanced (capstone) nature of the course, we will examine these structures from a variety of perspectives. Some of the questions we will address are: Who exactly manufactures them? Why are they being created? Who buys them and how do they fit into a pre-existing investment portfolio? How should they be priced / valued? What are their regulatory and tax implications? Can they be synthesized using existing securities? How profitable are they for the issuer / underwriter?

**Prerequisite:** MFIN 5400 3.00

## MFIN 5600 3.00 Institutional Wealth Management

This course focuses on the role that institutional investors play in the financial market and their investment process. It begins with an overview of the wealth management industry, followed by an examination of the asset allocation decision, investment strategies, portfolio performance evaluation, alternative investments, behavioral finance, and responsible investing. The emphasis is on both the theoretical underpinnings and the practical execution of the investment models.

**Prerequisite:** MFIN 5100 3.00

## MFIN 5700 1.50 Corporate Governance and Securities Law

This course provides an overview of Canadian capital markets and securities regulation and a discussion of selected issues in corporate governance. The focus is on contemporary debates in securities regulation and corporate governance, paying particular attention to how these developments are situated within the history of the development corporate governance laws and norms in Canada and internationally.







## Contact Us

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