Plenary Speaker Biography – John Knapp

In 2013, John Knapp retired as Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture after a 36-year career with the Government of Alberta. Throughout his career he worked closely with farm families, rural organizations and local municipalities, leading drought, flood, BSE, and other emergency programs. John’s lifelong passion has been the advancement of agriculture - an industry he believes will form a progressively larger part of Alberta’s future economy.

In 2014, John was recognized by the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies with their Outstanding Supporter of Agriculture Award. He continues to thrive as a consultant to the agricultural sector, and as an author, keynote speaker, and executive coach. His first book, The Leader's Practice Guide, was published to strong reviews in 2014 and he is currently penning a second work, The Practice Guide for Senior Leaders and CEO’s.

Together with his wife Karen, John resides in Edmonton. An amateur triathlete, John is actively involved in his community through volunteer work. His favourite form of recreation is anything that has him outdoors with his five grandchildren.