**Mike Lazaridis, O.C., O.Ont, FRS, FRSC  
Founder and Managing Partner at Quantum Valley Investments**

Mike Lazaridis, is Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Quantum Valley Investments (QVI) in Waterloo, Ontario. QVI provides financial and intellectual capital to help transform quantum physics and quantum computing breakthroughs into commercially viable products and technologies. It is Mike’s latest venture in more than a decade’s work aimed at creating a “Quantum Valley” in Waterloo by bringing the world’s best minds in physics, engineering, mathematics, computer and materials sciences together to collaborate on cutting-edge quantum research.

In 1984, Mike co-founded Research In Motion (now BlackBerry) where he invented the BlackBerry device, created the smartphone industry, and built Canada’s largest global tech business. He is recognised for his exceptional vision and innovation in the field of wireless communication.

Mike is the Founder and Board Chair of both the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics and the Institute for Quantum Computing at the University of Waterloo. Both of which are transforming physics research and education in Canada and beyond.

Among his many honours, Mr. Lazaridis is a Fellow of both the Royal Societies of London and Canada and has been named to both the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada. He was listed on the Maclean’s Honour Roll as a distinguished Canadian in 2000, named as one of TIME’s 100 Most Influential People, honoured as a Globe and Mail Nation Builder of the Year in 2010, selected as the 2013 Visionary of the Year by the Intelligent Community Forum, and awarded the Ernest C. Manning Principal Award, Canada’s most prestigious innovation prize.

Mr. Lazaridis holds an honorary doctoral degree in Engineering from the University of Waterloo (where he formerly served as Chancellor), as well as a Doctor of Laws from McMaster University, the University of Windsor, and Laval University. In addition to his many professional and personal accomplishments, Mr. Lazaridis won an Academy Award and an Emmy Award for technical achievements in the movie and TV industries for developing a high-speed barcode reader that greatly increased the speed of editing film.

