



POLICY
INSIGHTS

The Policy Insights Forum Annual National Recognition

THE NORTH STAR AWARD GALA DINNER

Sponsorship

Availability Package



September 24, 2026
Ottawa, Canada



★ 2026 North Star Award Recipient ★

Honouring **Kevin Ford**

Former President and CEO, Calian

The North Star Award



The North Star Award Gala Dinner, organized by the Policy Insights Forum (PIF), celebrates the remarkable achievements of an outstanding Canadian who has significantly impacted Canada and its people through their work and career. The event aims to honour individuals who have made meaningful contributions to Canada and to the world.

This year, we are honoured to recognize Mr. **Kevin Ford**, a distinguished leader in the defence and security sector. Mr. Ford served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Calian Group Ltd., where he played a pivotal role in guiding the company through a period of unprecedented growth.

Proceeds from the Gala will support the event and fund the establishment of an internship in the Canadian defence sector in the name of the North Star Award Recipient, Mr. Ford. The PIF will administer and guide this internship, and Mr. Ford will be invited to mentor the selected intern. This initiative ensures that his legacy continues to inspire future leaders dedicated to corporate service and Canada's economic development.

The Gala serves as a platform to emphasize the importance of service to Canada and its citizens, inspiring individuals to engage in Canada's public interests, be they in government, the military, the public service, not-for-profits, academia, or business throughout the world.

About Kevin Ford

Former CEO, Calian



As Former President and Chief Executive Officer of Calian, Kevin Ford focuses on enabling the management team to execute the company’s four-pillar growth framework of customer retention, diversification, innovation and operational excellence. This unrelenting focus has taken the company to the next level, with revenues exceeding the seven-hundred-million-dollar mark in 2024. It’s one milestone on the journey of being a global growing, proudly Canadian company.

Named CEO of the Year by the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce and Ottawa Business Journal in 2017, EY Entrepreneur of the Year in 2019 and Canada’s Defence Executive of the Year by CDR in 2024. Kevin attributes his success to teamwork, integrity and commitment. These values, combined with Kevin’s enthusiasm for Calian technology and talent and his passion for diversity and inclusion, help him to future-proof the business.

Kevin is fully invested in the growth of the company, playing a key role in the 20 successful acquisitions Calian has made since 2012. “Through a combination of strategic acquisitions, innovative solutions and diversification, we continue to increase our customer base in Canada and expand into new international markets.”

Kevin was promoted to Chief Executive Officer in April 2015. Prior to becoming the CEO of Calian, Kevin served as the Calian Business and Technology Services Division President for more than four years. Kevin worked in professional services for more than 35 years, including 11 years at IBM as a Partner in Global Business Services. He also contributes to numerous charitable organizations, sits on the board of the Ottawa Hospital Foundation and served as Chair of the CADSI Board from October 2019 to 2023. Kevin has coached hockey and most recently led the charge to save a legacy live music venue in Ottawa.

About Policy Insights Forum



The Policy Insights Forum (PIF) is a non-partisan Canadian think tank dedicated to addressing strategic public policy challenges through independent research, analysis, and stakeholder engagement.

PIF's programming is centered on four core areas: Industry Engagement, Thought Leadership, Research and Publications, and Emerging Leadership Development.



Engaging Canada's **Best Minds**[™]

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Event Venue

 Location

Fairmont Château Laurier
1 Rideau St, Ottawa, ON K1N 8S7

 Attire

Black Tie

 Date

Thursday, September 24, 2026

 Time

Reception 6:00 PM
Gala Dinner 7:30 PM

Title Sponsor

\$20,000

Available



TITLE SPONSOR

**NORTH STAR
AWARD GALA DINNER**

Media

- As the Exclusive Title Sponsor, your organization will receive prominent branding on all Gala materials.
- Logo placement and link to company site on Policy Insights Forum website
- Prominent logo placement on event invitations and pre-event publicity

North Star Internship

- As the Exclusive Title Sponsor, your organization will receive recognition for funding the establishment of an internship in the defence sector in Mr. Ford's name, and a feature as the internship award sponsor

At the Gala

- Speaking opportunity at the Gala
- Personalized acknowledgement from the podium
- Prominent signage at the event
- Logo placement on sponsorship slideshow
- Prominent logo placement and acknowledgement in the Gala program
- Logo placement on table centrepieces
- Full-page colour advertisement in the Gala program
- Two complimentary table of eight invitations for dinner
- Two complimentary seats at the Gala Head Table
- 18 complimentary invitations to the pre-Gala VIP Reception

Diamond Sponsor

\$15,000
Available



DIAMOND SPONSOR

NORTH STAR
AWARD GALA DINNER

Media

- As the Official VIP Reception Sponsor, your organization will receive prominent branding as Diamond Sponsor on material associated with the pre-Gala VIP Reception, including social media, print and web presence
- Logo placement and link to company site on the PIF website
- Prominent logo placement on event invitations and pre-event publicity
- Two minute “Proud to Sponsor the Gala” video to be played at the Gala and shared on the PIF website

At the Gala

- Speaking opportunity at VIP Reception
- Personalized acknowledgement from the podium
- Prominent signage at the event
- Logo placement on sponsorship slideshow
- Prominent logo placement and acknowledgement in the Gala program
- Logo placement on table centerpieces
- Half-page colour advertisement in the Gala program
- One complimentary table of eight invitations for dinner
- Two complimentary seats at the Gala Head Table
- 10 complimentary invitations to the pre-Gala VIP Reception

Specialty Sponsor

\$10,000

Available

SPONSORSHIP

**NORTH STAR
AWARD GALA DINNER**

Media

- Branding as Diamond Sponsor on material associated with the Gala including social media, print and web presence
- Logo placement and link to company site on Policy Insights Forum website
- One minute “Proud to Sponsor the Gala” video to be played at the Gala and shared on PIF website
- Logo placement on sponsorship slideshow
- Logo placement on event invitations and pre-event publicity
- Logo placement and acknowledgement in the Gala program

At the Gala

- Acknowledgement from the podium
- Signage at the event
- Logo placement and acknowledgement in the Gala program
- One complimentary table of eight invitations for dinner
- Eight complimentary invitations to the pre-Gala VIP Reception
- Half-page colour advertisement in the Gala program
- Logo placement on table centerpieces
- Additional recognition opportunities to be discussed

Specialty Sponsors

\$10,000
Available



Headtable (\$10,000) **SOLD**

- Sponsoring Award Recipient's family presence and special recognition
- 2 seats at the Head Table
- Special gift to Award Recipient

Gala Entertainment & Red Carpet Photography (\$10,000) **Available**

- The sponsorship includes recognition for the live band performance.

Red Carpet Photography (\$10,000) **Available**

- The sponsorship includes recognition for official gala photos sponsor.

Sponsorship Includes

- Branding on material associated with the Gala including social media, print and web presence
- Logo placement and link to company site on Policy Insights Forum website
- Logo placement on sponsorship slideshow
- Acknowledgement from the podium
- Signage at the event
- Logo placement and acknowledgement in the Gala program
- One complimentary table of eight invitations for dinner
- Eight complimentary invitations to the pre-Gala VIP Reception
- Quarter-page colour advertisement in the Gala program
- Additional recognition opportunities to be discussed

Individual Table

\$5,000
Available



Media

- Logo placement on sponsorship slideshow and table
- Recognition on social media and the Policy Insights Forum's website

At the Gala

- One table of eight invitations for dinner
- Four complimentary invitations to the pre-Gala VIP Reception

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2025 North Star Award Recipient, **Stephen S. Poloz**, former Bank of Canada Governor

North Star Gala Contact



Goran Samuel Pesic

Chair, North Star Award
Organizing Committee
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