



## 2025 UPEI Inspiring Young Alumni Award

### Katie Arsenault (BBA 2007)

Katie Arsenault graduated from UPEI with a degree in business administration and a certificate in accounting in 2007. Her first job after graduation was with Doane Grant Thornton, and she earned her CA, now CPA, designation in 2011.

In 2012, Katie relocated to Halifax and gained experience working in hedge funds when she joined Mitsubishi UFJ Fund Services as Deputy Manager. In 2017, she joined medical technology startup Spring Loaded Technology as Director of Operations and Controller. Collectively, those positions allowed her to develop skills in finance and experience as a business leader responsible for building teams and growing systems.

Katie came back home to PEI in 2021 when she was recruited by Island Capital Partners, an early-stage venture capital firm that invests in high potential PEI entrepreneurs and startups. As a partner with responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the firm, she oversees deal flow and due diligence, provides mentorship to entrepreneurs, and acts as a board member for several of the fund's portfolio companies.

As a leader in PEI's venture capital sector, Katie builds and shares her knowledge with a vast network by attending and participating in conferences and forums regionally and nationally. In addition to her many corporate board appointments, she gives back to the community in numerous ways. She is vice-chair of the Confederation Centre of the Arts Board of Directors and chair of the Centre's finance committee. She serves on the boards of directors for the PEI BioAlliance and Maritime Electric, and as chair of the UPEI Student Entrepreneurship Hub Advisory.

Katie is helping to teach the next generation of entrepreneurs, business leaders, and accounting professionals. She is a regular guest lecturer in business and engineering classes at UPEI focused on entrepreneurship and for more than 10 years was an instructor in the national CPA program.

In 2024, Katie worked with the National Angel Capital Organization to lead three workshops across PEI focusing on female entrepreneurs and how Island Capital Partners can better support women in PEI who start new and innovative companies. She stands out as a female leader in a traditionally male-dominated field. Women own 21 per cent of businesses in Canada, but female-identifying founders receive only around four per cent of venture capital funds distributed each year. Research by Women in VC, the world's largest global community for women in venture capital, suggests that women represent less than five per cent of all venture capital partners in the United States.

In recognition of her exceptional and inspiring contributions to the PEI business community and entrepreneurial ecosystem as an investor, leader, and mentor, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to present Katie Arsenault, BBA 2007, with a 2025 Inspiring Young Alumni Award.