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905.831.0404
events@kmprod.com
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Renowned Oceanic Explorer | Leadership & Teamwork Expert

<https://www.kmprod.com/speakers/joe-macinnis>

Bio

Some people are born leaders. The rest of us find ourselves in positions where leadership is required. Self-described as an “accidental leader,” **Dr. Joe MacInnis** has led or participated in more than fifty of the world’s most important expeditions and logged more time beneath the surface of the Arctic Ocean than any other scientist on earth. A medical doctor and expert on human performance in high-risk, high-stress environments, Dr. MacInnis is an eloquent and stirring speaker who shares the leadership lessons he’s learned from the high seas and beyond.

In August 2023 and in honour of his prolific career, the Royal Canadian Geographic Society recently hosted a day-long celebration of Joe’s legacy. In attendance were such high-profile guests as Canadian-born filmmaker and fellow deep-sea explorer James Cameron, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Chief Perry Bellegarde, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, and more.

[Video highlights](#). [morelink]

Topics

Dr. Joe MacInnis Speaker Presentations

COVID Leadership for Mental Well-Being [\[morelink\]](#)

Team Genius for the Long Emergency [\[morelink\]](#)

As Funny as Possible, Under the Circumstances [\[morelink\]](#)

ADDITIONAL KEYNOTES:

SAFETY LEADERSHIP IN HIGH RISK ENVIRONMENTS

FINDING TEAM GENIUS

Insights from High-Risk Workplaces

[\(Download PDF outline\)](#)

Why do some teams have genius?

What leadership skills accelerate this genius?

IT WAS THE MOST REMARKABLE DIVE in the history of deep-sea science. Seven miles into the Mariana Trench—the deepest, darkest place on the planet. James Cameron, *National Geographic* and Rolex commit \$30-million to use Cameron's new research sub to explore Earth's final frontier. During an early test dive, two men on Cameron's team are killed in a helicopter crash. For 60 days on a ship in the Western Pacific, Cameron and his team struggle with their devastating grief, technical failures and the forces of the ocean. Off the coasts of Australia and Papua New Guinea, they make eight test dives. Five are failures. In a brilliant fusion of personal leadership and team genius, they make the seven mile dive, complete a once-in-a-century science mission and honour their fallen teammates.

Four riveting stories about men and women who work in the deep ocean, the battlefield and outer space will help you accelerate your team's genius.

THE SECRETS OF DEEP LEADERSHIP

How do alpha leaders like James Cameron and Special Forces soldiers achieve their dominant success? In this gripping, visually-driven talk, leadership expert Dr. Joe distills the leadership process into six takeaways that will help any organization build a culture of fierce ingenuity and team genius. What are the prime pathways and principles of leadership? Why is the leadership-mentor atmosphere so important? With spellbinding storytelling, self-deprecating humour, and sheer energy, Dr. Joe delivers an instructive look at the path to leadership success—reminding us to anticipate the needs of our team partners and perform random excessive acts of kindness.

FOLLOWING SHACKLETON'S FOOTSTEPS: Six Principles for Your Leadership Checklist

One hundred years ago, after losing his ship to the Antarctic ice and spending months surviving on an ice floe, Ernest Shackleton and a skeleton crew climbed into a small boat and made a near-miraculous, 800-mile journey across a wind-swept, heaving ocean. On reaching the island of South Georgia, they trekked over mountain ridges and glaciers to find help for the 22 men they had left behind. [morelink]

OILSTORM: LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO

On April 20, 2010, an explosion on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 men. During the next three months, eight million barrels of oil were released. "The blowout was not a failure of technology," says Dr. MacInnis, "It was a failure of leadership."

In his presentation Dr. MacInnis outlines twelve essential traits of leadership and shows why the 'oil storm' was a crucible of effective and failed leadership. Using dramatic video clips, he reveals how great leaders acquire and use the essential traits to enhance personal performance.

LEADERSHIP WHEN YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT: In times of turbulent change, the best option is deep leadership.

Joe MacInnis is a medical doctor who studies leadership and teamwork in life-threatening environments from the deep ocean to outer space. He's led thirty expeditions under the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans including the first team of scientists to dive under the ice at the North Pole. His work has earned him many honors including the Order of Canada.

Dr. MacInnis has worked on science and engineering projects with the US Navy, the Canadian government, the Russian Academy of Sciences and NASA. He studied the leadership and teamwork that allowed astronauts to construct the International Space Station and sub pilots to navigate \$25-million research subs to the ocean's deepest depths. [morelink]

DEEP LEADERSHIP: INSIGHTS FROM OUTER SPACE AND THE ABYSSAL OCEAN

Joe MacInnis is a physician-scientist who studies human performance in lethal environments. He's led thirty expeditions under the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans including the first team of scientists to dive under the North Pole. He's worked on projects with the United States Navy, the Canadian government, the Russian Academy of Sciences and NASA. His work has earned him a number of distinctions including the Order of Canada.

In his 45-minute presentation Dr. MacInnis uses dramatic video clips to take you on a perilous journey 4 km. under the ocean and 400 km. in space. Along the way you meet astronauts and marine scientists operating at the luminous intersection of strategic imagination, mental resilience and resolute courage. Filled with practical information, his presentation is an urgent call to develop multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled and humanist leaders to confront our planetary and social challenges.

THE BRIGHT STUFF

In his 60 minute presentation, Dr. Joe MacInnis describes a harrowing escape from death in a research sub during a three-mile dive under the North Atlantic - and what it taught him about **leadership and teamwork**. He follows this with four dramatic stories featuring Apollo astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Academy Award winning director and deep-sea explorer James Cameron, and shuttle astronaut Dave Williams. The stories about his three friends focus on their resolute courage, fierce innovation, creative collaboration and hyper-resilience - bringing fresh insights to these vital leadership skills. [\[morelink\]](#)

FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE EARTH

This program is designed for audiences such as the World Wildlife Fund and the Nature Conservancy, organizations already committed to protecting the natural world. Dr. MacInnis speaks to them as a physician studying the psychology of human performance in extreme environments. He will take them into the deep ocean—an eco-system they are unfamiliar with—to reveal the qualities of character that allow us to survive in an environment that is freezing cold, totally dark, hours away from help, and where a single flaw or failure means the difference between life and death. His presentation congratulates them on their efforts to date and encourages them to continue working on their commitment to finding new ways to save Earth's eco-systems.

DEEP GREEN LEADERSHIP

Deep Green Leadership is designed for companies such as IBM, General Electric or Microsoft who know the perils of climate change and want to do something about it. Dr. MacInnis speaks to them as a physician concerned about their health and safety. He describes the similarities between the life-support systems in our subs and the life-support systems that sustain the Earth. He shows how the leadership and teamwork we use to explore the deep ocean - and the values that make them successful in their business - can help them navigate through climate change. His presentation is optimistic and upbeat and contains recent examples of how other companies are making a "deep green" difference. What makes his "eco-champion" presentations different? First, Dr MacInnis is a physician who studies the psychology of positive change. Second, he focuses on solutions, not problems. In addition, he uses a unique metaphor - survival in the deep ocean - as his central narrative. Finally, Dr. MacInnis uses the power of dramatic, moving images to tell his story.

SWIMMING IN THE SHARK TANK: TEAMWORK WHEN YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT

A deep-sea journey with the multi-disciplined teams and advanced technologies changing the way we explore Earth.

ALIENS OF THE DEEP or The LAST MYSTERIES OF TITANIC

The inside story of working with James Cameron.

LEADERSHIP - 12 ESSENTIALS

LEADERSHIP - 12 ESSENTIALS takes you on a perilous journey under the ocean and into space and introduces you to twelve individuals who lead dangerous lives, work with complex systems, and personify the essential attributes of leadership. They include marine scientists who use extreme-depth research subs to explore the ocean's deepest depths and shuttle astronauts who orbit the earth at 17,000 miles an hour while constructing the International Space Station. Two miles under the ocean or more than 200 miles in space they confront lethal forces including no oxygen, sub-freezing temperatures and blood boiling, bone-crushing pressures. To survive and work effectively, they've become masters of collaboration whose skills include physical toughness, strategic imagination and team genius. Years of training and experience give them the rare dimension of character known as leadership. [\[morelink\]](#)

To inquire about Dr. Joe MacInnnis's speaking schedule & [booking Dr. Joe MacInnis, contact us.](#)