**Biography**

**Hélène Desmarais, C.M., O.Q., LL.D**

Hélène Desmarais graduated from HEC Montréal in 1983 and has since enjoyed a remarkable career in the world of entrepreneurship. She pioneered the creation of the Centre d’entreprises et d’innovation de Montréal (CEIM) in 1996, which she led for more than 25 years, before launching IVADO Labs in 2017 and Scale AI in 2018. Today, these companies are major pillars of the artificial intelligence ecosystem in Canada.

Ms. Desmarais chairs a number of boards and committees, including that of her alma mater, HEC Montréal, the Fondation de l’Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, and the International Economic Forum of the Americas. She works actively to raise the profile of these institutions on the international scene.

Ms. Desmarais’ commitment to the community has earned her many honours. She is a member of the Order of Canada, an Officer of the Ordre national du Québec, and a Commander of the Order of Montreal.