

# PAUL DESMARAIS III

## Major Career Roles

**Chair/CEO**, Sagard
**Executive Chair and Co-Founder**, Portage
**Chair and Co-Founder**, Diagram
**Chair**, Wealthsimple
**Chair**, Dialogue

## Other Career Highlights

**Chair**, Novisto
**Chair**, Grayhawk
**Director**, nesto
**Co-Founder**, Black Wealth Club
**Co-Founder**, Indigenous Leadership Circle
**Co-Chair**, Centraide of Greater Montreal

Paul Desmarais III currently serves as Chair & CEO of Sagard Holdings (since 2016) - an alternative asset manager he helped establish to expand the investment footprint of Power Corporation of Canada, the Desmarais family's long-standing holding company. Under his leadership, Sagard has evolved into a dynamic platform spanning venture capital, private equity, private credit, and healthcare royalties. While operating independently, Sagard reflects the family's long-term investment philosophy and commitment to building enduring capital structures with generational oversight. Paul is a Senior Vice President of Power Corporation of Canada and Power Financial (since 2017).

In his role at Sagard, he co founded and chairs both Portag3 Ventures (fintech) and Diagram Ventures (venture builder), and leads portfolio boards including Wealthsimple, Novisto, and Grayhawk, while also serving on boards such as Nesto, Midas, and Empower. These roles reflect his commitment to blending innovation, impact, and sophisticated capital deployment across North America, Europe, and beyond.

Paul's career began with analyst roles at Goldman Sachs, followed by leadership positions at Imerys (strategy) and Great West Lifeco (risk management). He joined Power Corporation and Power Financial in 2014, rising to SVP by 2017. Since 2016, he has spearheaded Sagard's remarkable ascent from a family-affiliated investment platform to a global fund manager with over US $25bn in assets, supporting high-growth ventures and championing impact investing aligned with the UN PRI and carbon neutrality goals.

Beyond private markets, Paul is a leading voice in social and cultural philanthropy. He co founded the Black Wealth Club and the Indigenous Leadership Circle, co chairs the Centraide of Greater Montréal Major Donors Campaign (since 2022), and serves as Honorary Co President of the Sainte Justine Hospital Foundation (since 2023). He also lends his insight to boards including Rideau Hall Foundation, Alpine Canada, and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, illustrating his dedication to inclusive leadership and civic impact.

He brings deep cross-sector expertise in:
Private capital & venture ecosystems – structuring high-performing, mission-aligned funds across fintech, healthcare, real estate, and tech-growth ventures.
Board governance & foundational leadership – establishing governance frameworks for early-stage and scale-up companies, and driving chair-level stewardship.
Socio economic impact & inclusion – building network-based initiatives to diversify wealth creation and mentoring in underrepresented communities.
Global fund management – operating multi-strategy platforms, expanding cross-border portfolios, and leading capital deployment across asset classes.

Educated at Harvard (BA Economics) and INSEAD (MBA), Paul is recognised for combining family legacy with bold entrepreneurship, marrying financial acumen with cultural empathy. His leadership offers an inspiring model for business executives seeking to unite scale, innovation, and a positive legacy.