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Toronto Chapter



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ICAI - Toronto Chapter presents  
3<sup>rd</sup> SUCCESSIVE MEGA NETWORKING ANNUAL EVENT

# North American Talent Summit 2024

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

7.30 am - 3:30 pm EDT



Venue:  
Scotiabank Centre,  
40 King Street West,  
Toronto, ON



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# North American Talent Summit 2024

## Agenda

TIME (EDT)	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
07.30 AM	Registration, Breakfast and Networking	
08.30 AM	Opening Ceremony	<b>Hon. Sanjay Kumar Verma</b> , High Commissioner of India, Ottawa <b>CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal</b> , President, ICAI <b>CA. Raj Viswanathan</b> , CFO, Scotiabank <b>CA Ritesh Desai</b> , Chairman, Toronto Chapter of the ICAI
09.45 AM	Panel Discussion on Talent Landscape in North America	<b>PANELISTS:</b> <b>Shamira Madhany</b> , Managing Director and Deputy Executive Director, WES <b>Dr. Eileen de Villa</b> , CMO, Toronto <b>Sandra Roberts</b> , Independent Board Member <b>Camila Calmet</b> , Director Talent Acquisition, Scotiabank <b>Gary Comerford</b> , President and CEO, CMC Global <b>Vijay Thomas</b> , CEO, Tangentia <b>MODERATORS:</b> <b>Ms. Helen Mekonen &amp; Ms. Urmilla Mahabirsingh</b> Partners at BIPOC Executive Search
10:45 AM	Management lessons from the Battlefield	<b>David Fraser</b> , Major-General (Retd.) and President of Aegis Six Corporation of Toronto
11:20 AM	Fireside Chat on ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) & Accountants	<b>Michael Torrance</b> , VP, BMO Financial Group <b>Sarah Mitchell</b> , MD, BMO Financial Group
12:30 PM	Lunch	
01:30 PM	Fireside Chat on Strategy, Risk Management & AI	<b>Dr. Bruce Choy</b> , Adjunct Professor, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto <b>Dr. Laurence B. Mussio</b> , Special Advisor to the Office of the CEO, BMO Financial Group
02:15 PM	Fireside Chat on Financial Crimes, Technology & Accountants	<b>Cameron Field</b> , VP, Vidocq group <b>Inspector Guy- Paul Larocque</b> , Federal Policing Criminal Operations, RCMP
03:00 PM	Vote of Thanks	<b>CA Ritesh Desai</b> , Chairman-Toronto Chapter of the ICAI

### BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS:

- ◆ Enriching panel discussion on recruitment, developing your talent and growing your career.
- ◆ Opportunity for 1:1 networking and mentoring as well as refining your interview skills.
- ◆ Dedicated networking and mentoring sessions.

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Register soon at [www.icaitoronto.com](http://www.icaitoronto.com) or through mobile app "ICAI Toronto"

Registration fees: For members \$30 & non-members \$135\* + HST (\*special pricing for corporate sponsors)

Dress code: Business Attire/Smart Casual

# North American Talent Summit 2024

## Corporate Deals

“Company's logo will be displayed on their table and their name will be announced by the Master of Ceremonies acknowledging the support”



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For Corporate Enquiries, Contact:

The Chairman of the Chapter at  
[ridesai@icaitoronto.com](mailto:ridesai@icaitoronto.com)



**Hon. Sanjay Kumar Verma**

High Commissioner  
of India, Ottawa

High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma entered into the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1988. He was stationed at the High Commission of India, Hong Kong and at the Embassies of India in the People's Republic of China, Vietnam and Türkiye, before serving as the Consul General of India in Milan, Italy. He also served as the Indian Ambassador to the Republic of the Sudan. Following his tenure in Sudan, High Commissioner Verma served as Joint Secretary and later as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. Before arriving in Canada, he served as the Ambassador of India to Japan and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

High Commissioner Verma is deeply passionate about Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Diplomacy, delivery of people-centric services.

High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma graduated from Patna University and continued his study at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi pursuing a post-graduate degree in Physics.



**CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal**

President, ICAI



CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal ascends to the esteemed position of the 72nd President of ICAI for the year 2024-25. CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, a graduate from Calcutta University, has attained exceptional heights through his remarkable actions.

Demonstrating enthusiasm and commitment to keeping pace with technological advancements, he actively engages in the integration of artificial intelligence and automation, to build futuristic workplace and workforce by emphasizing on continuous training, upskilling, and reskilling.

He has served on various committees as ICAI such as the Professional Development Committee, Ethical Standards Board, and led initiatives including UDIN and Bank Branch Audit Allocation Software.

With a view to propel India ahead, he initiated the CA Business Leaders 40 under 40 campaign to build leaders for tomorrow, recognizing and celebrating the achievements of 40 young CA professionals under the age of 40, highlighting his commitment to fostering excellence and innovation within the industry.



**CA Raj Viswanathan**  
Group Head and  
Chief Financial Officer

**Scotiabank.**

CA Raj Viswanathan is the Group Head and Chief Financial Officer at Scotiabank. He was appointed to the role in December 2019. Raj oversees the Finance Department, including Business Line finance groups, Finance & Strategy, Economics, Taxation, Chief Accountants, Procurement, Investor Relations, Group Treasury and Strategic Transactions & Review.

Raj first joined Scotiabank in 2002 and has held progressively senior positions in Internal Audit and Finance. Raj was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in 2018.

In 2014, Raj was appointed Senior Vice President & Chief Accountant. In this role, Raj was responsible for overseeing the Chief Accountant's group which included group responsibilities for: Capital Management, Accounting Policies & Procedures, and Financial Analysis and Reporting. In this role, Raj also led the Bank's multi-year Finance Transformation project. Raj is married and has one son.



**CA Ritesh Desai**  
Chairman,  
Toronto Chapter of the ICAI



Ritesh is the Chief Internal Auditor at Shinhan Bank Canada responsible for the Internal Audit Department. Ritesh joined the Bank in June 2023. Prior to joining Shinhan Bank Canada, Ritesh worked as Senior Audit Manager, Corporate Audit Division with BMO Financial Group and specialized in the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing area.

He has about 18 years of internal audit experience with financial institutions in Canada and India, including in areas like financial crime compliance, risk management, governance, data analytics and climate risks. Prior to becoming the Chair, he served as the Vice-Chair and Secretary of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Toronto Chapter.

Ritesh is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist, a CPA from Colorado State, U.S. and a Chartered Accountant (ACA) from India.



**Shamira Madhany**  
Managing Director and  
Deputy Executive Director,  
WES (World Education Services)



Shamira Madhany joined WES in 2018, bringing over two decades of government experience from Ontario. As Assistant Deputy Minister, she oversaw Health, Education, and Social Policy in Cabinet Office. Her role as Chief Diversity and Accessibility Officer ensured inclusivity for 62,000 employees.

Shamira's expertise spans employer associations, licensing bodies, non-profits, and post-secondary education. She pioneered programs helping internationally educated professionals secure relevant employment. She guest lectures at Queen's University and University of Toronto's Munk School.

Her board memberships include Windmill Microlending, Shad Canada, Herzing College Toronto, and CERC Migration SAB at Toronto Metropolitan University. Shamira's leadership earned her recognition in the 2019 Women Worth Watching® Awards by Profiles in Diversity Journal. In 2020, she received the Metropolis Policy Maker Award at the Metropolis Canada Awards of Excellence.



**Dr. Eileen de Villa**  
CMO, Toronto

Dr. Eileen de Villa, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, spearheads Canada's largest public health agency. She oversees programs for 3 million residents while holding multiple advanced degrees and an adjunct professorship at the University of Toronto.

As the city's health leader, Dr. Eileen has guided crucial initiatives like Toronto's COVID-19 vaccination campaign and addressed the ongoing drug toxicity crisis. Her research spans urban health planning, emergency preparedness, and disease control.

Dr. Eileen's expertise in health equity and communication has earned her numerous accolades. These include the 2021 IABC/Toronto Communicator of the Year, the 2022 "Most Influential Filipina Woman in the World" Award, and recognition from the University of Toronto and Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement.

Her multifaceted background in medicine, public health, and business administration uniquely positions her to lead Toronto's health initiatives. Dr. Eileen's work continues to shape public health policy and improve community well-being across the city.



**Sandra Roberts**  
Independent Board Member

Sandra Roberts is an accomplished business and finance executive with national and international experience. With more than 30 years of experience and career in professional services, as a partner in two of the leading big four firms (Deloitte and PwC), she is a trusted business advisor to Boards of Directors and Executive teams on governance, financial and enterprise-wide risk management, execution of strategic priorities and business objectives.

Sandra currently serves as a Corporate Director at Shinhan Bank Canada and Chair of the Audit Committee, past Chair of the Risk Management Committee and Board Member at Toronto Global and Chair of the Governance and HR Committee. Her past board service includes the Board of Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, Branksome Hall Canada and Branksome Hall Asia, Food Banks of Canada Treasurer and Audit Committee Chair and the Ontario College of Arts and Design as a Order in Council member of the Board of Governors.



**Camila Calmet**  
Director, Talent Acquisition,  
Scotiabank

**Scotiabank**

Camila Calmet currently serves as Director, Talent Acquisition with over a decade of experience at Scotiabank. Started her career in Scotiabank Peru, where she led the Talent Acquisition team and gained extensive experience in Recruitment, Global Recruitment Transformation Projects, Executive Search, and Employment Branding.

Since relocating to Canada in 2022, Camila has played integral roles within both the Executive Search and the Leadership and Talent Management teams.

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Camila is a psychologist with a master's degree in marketing and commercial management.



**Gary Comerford**  
President and CEO,  
CMC Global

For over 40 years Gary Comerford has been actively involved in dealing with the enormous changes that have taken place in the financial services industry and has worked extensively in both the Individual and Group insurance market.

Gary first entered the financial services business in 1977 as a Branch Manager for TD Canada Trust. He joined Sun Life of Canada as Vice President of Marketing, and worked in a number of roles including General Manager for India, retiring as Senior Vice-President, International. In 2009, he joined Reinsurance Group of America as Executive Vice President and was later appointed Executive Vice-President and Chief Marketing Officer. In 2014 Gary incorporated CMC Global, a consulting company specializing in International Expansion. Throughout his career Gary has written for a variety of industry publications, and has spoken extensively at industry seminars about the future of the financial services industry

Gary is also an active member of his community. He taught Marketing as an instructor at Brock University, held presidency of the Catholic Children's Aid Society Foundation of Toronto, and Rotary Club of Oakville. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for significant achievement and remarkable service.

Gary received his Bachelor of Arts, History (Honors) holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario. He is also honored with the Institute of Corporate Directors ICD.D. certification through the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.



**Vijay Thomas**  
CEO, Tangentia



Vijay is the Founder & CEO of Tangentia, an agile digital transformation company, headquartered in Toronto, with operations globally, primarily USA, India and Canada. Vijay is also Founder and CEO of Tangentia Ventures, which invests in early-stage companies with a special focus on immigrant run companies. Vijay has a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka University and an MBA from the Goa Institute of Management.

Vijay is the President of TiE Toronto since January 2023 and served as the President of the Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) in 2021. Vijay is on the board of Willowdale BIA a local business organization in Toronto and he is active in multiple local and global business organisations. He grew up in Goa, India and then lived in Chennai, Boston, Montreal and now calls Toronto home for the last 20+ years.



# North American Talent Summit 2024

## Moderators



**Ms. Helen Mekonen**  
Partner,  
BIPOC Executive Search Inc.



Ms. Helen Mekonen brings close to 21 years of experience in executive search recruitment and has built a proven track record of identifying, attracting, assessing, and hiring top diversity talent. Helen, in her role as a Partner, offers a solutions-based approach, drawing upon her extensive experience in retained executive search across both private and public sectors. With a keen interest in organizational design, Helen possesses a natural ability to foster strong relationships with individuals from a wide range of industries. Helen is an Italian born Ethiopian woman and is a settler to Toronto and holds diplomas in Business Marketing and Business Administration from George Brown College. She is multilingual—fully bilingual in English and Italian, and conversationally proficient in French and Spanish.



**Ms. Urmilla Mahabirsingh**  
Partner,  
BIPOC Executive Search Inc.



Ms. Urmilla Mahabirsingh brings 20+ years' experience leading strategic talent management in the not-for-profit, private, and public sectors. Urmilla has built innovative solutions which enhance organizational revenue and growth, while creating spaces of belonging which reflect organizations' customers and communities. Urmilla is a graduate of the Human Resources Management Program at Sheridan College. Migrating to Canada from Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, over 25 years ago, with ancestral roots in India and Nepal, Urmilla has empowered numerous professionals and newcomers to Canada, and takes an active role in the community towards nurturing a more harmonious, peaceful, and sustainable planet.



**David Fraser**

Major-General (Retd.) and  
President of  
Aegis Six Corporation  
of Toronto

David Fraser, a retired Major-General, now leads Aegis Six Corporation in Toronto. His 30-year military career began after graduating from Carleton University in 1980. David commanded NATO forces in southern Afghanistan in 2006, among other roles.

David holds advanced degrees from Canadian and U.S. military institutions. His numerous honors include the Commander of Military Merit, Meritorious Service Cross, and awards from allied nations.

David received the Vimy Award for leadership contributions and the Atlantic Council Award. He founded Aegis in 2016 for capacity building projects. Currently, he works with BMO's Canadian Defence Community Banking Program.

A former Defence Procurement Panel member, David now sits on corporate boards like Open Text. He's CTV's Military Analyst and co-authored the bestseller "Operation Medusa". David enjoys golf and skeet shooting.

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**Michael Torrance**  
VP,  
Chief Sustainability Officer,  
BMO Financial Group

Michael Torrance is Chief Sustainability Officer at BMO Financial Group. He leads sustainability strategy and founded and oversees the BMO Climate Institute, which seeks to bridge the complexities of climate science and policy with business strategy and economics. Michael leads (with partners throughout BMO) sustainability related disclosure, ESG focused investor relations, environmental and social risk management, operational sustainability and climate and sustainable finance initiatives. Prior to joining BMO Michael was a Partner at a major international law firm where he founded the firm's environmental and social risk advisory practice. He has served on the Steering Committees of the Principles for Responsible Banking, Equator Principles Association, Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative. Michael is a published author on sustainability topics and is regularly quoted in media, and is the founder and host of the BMO Sustainability Leaders podcast.



**Sarah Mitchell**  
Managing Director -  
Sustainability Controller &  
Investor Reporting,  
Bank of Montreal

Sarah Mitchell is a Fellow Chartered Accountant of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. She is currently Managing Director, Sustainability Controller & Investor Reporting at BMO. Her responsibilities as Sustainability Controller are focused on building an internal controls framework for sustainability reporting and supporting adoption of new reporting requirements, leveraging her finance experience and external audit background. Sarah worked at PwC for over 12 years prior to joining BMO in 2017 as a Director in Accounting Policy before moving to the Bank of the West integration office. She is on the National Board for BMO Alliance for Women and is an active member of their mentoring program, offering coaching and guidance to women across the bank. She also volunteers in her spare time at Ronald McDonald House, supporting families with children undergoing treatment at SickKids Hospital in Toronto.



**Dr. Bruce Choy**

Adjunct Professor,  
Rotman School of  
Management,  
University of Toronto

Dr. Bruce Choy, an Adjunct Professor of Finance at the University of Toronto's Rotman School, brings expertise in risk management, competition and markets, and financial services regulation. He serves as an independent Board director and leads governance functions for organization in the financial services and post-secondary education sectors, including currently being Chair of the Board of Governors for the George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology and Chair of the Board Risk Committee for Shinhan Bank Canada, a subsidiary of the Korean financial services conglomerate Shinhan Financial Group. His global career spans roles as a Commonwealth Bank General Manager and PwC Risk Consulting Partner.

In 2023, Dr. Choy co-led a landmark report with OSFI on responsible AI in financial services. This publication explores safeguards for AI use in financial institutions, addressing the industry's evolving technological landscape.



**Dr. Laurence B. Mussio**

Special Advisor to the  
Office of the CEO,  
BMO Financial Group

Dr. Laurence Mussio, Canada's leading business historian, advises BMO Financial Group's CEO and is also Chair of the Long Run Institute. This non-profit organization analyzes long-term experiences of firms, markets, and governments to enhance decision-making. Dr. Mussio teaches at Schulich School of Business, York University, sits on the International Advisory Board of Queen's University Belfast Centre for Economic History, and is on the Leadership Council of the Ian O. Ihnatowycz Institute for Leadership at Ivey Business School, Western University. His landmark book "Whom Fortune Favours: Bank of Montreal and the Rise of Canadian Finance, Volume 1 & 2" examines Bank of Montreal's history.

The Long Run Institute, under Dr. Mussio's leadership, helps global organizations understand past technological changes' impact. This historical perspective aids firms in preparing for AI disruption and developing competitive long-term strategies. By providing crucial context, the Institute equips businesses to navigate future challenges and seize opportunities in rapidly evolving markets.



**Cameron Field**  
VP, Vidocq Group



Cam is a Vice President with the Vidocq Group. He leads the firm's operations outside of Quebec where they consult on enhanced due diligence in private equity and M+A work, financial crime, money laundering, sanctions, regulatory risk and complex corporate investigations. Prior to that he worked in the AML team at BMO as the head of intelligence. Prior to his career in the private sector he served 32 years with the Toronto Police Service and retired in 2017.

He served in many roles including Officer in Charge of the Corporate Crimes Unit. He sits on Boards with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking and the Children's Aid Society of Halton. He holds a BA in Justice Studies, a MSc in Criminology and is a certified anti money laundering specialist. He speaks internationally and has published numerous articles and chapters on financial crime.



**Guy-Paul Larocque**  
Inspector, Federal Policing  
Criminal Operations, RCMP

Inspector Guy-Paul Larocque is the Officer in charge of Financial Crime within Federal Policing Criminal Operations. In his role, he is responsible for Capital Markets, Serious Fraud, Anti-Corruption, Sanctions and, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes. Inspector Larocque has been a member of the Royal Canada Mounted Police (RCMP) since 2002. He has had a diverse policing career, while working both in financial crime and general duty policing. Previously to taking his current role, he led the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, a national police service that gathers intelligence on fraud across Canada and assist Police of Jurisdiction with enforcement and prevention of fraud. His experience extends to policy work and training as it relates to financial crime. While posted with the Financial Crime Section in New Brunswick, he led the first case of mortgage fraud in New Brunswick. Prior to joining the RCMP, Inspector Larocque worked for 4 years as an auditor for the Credit Unions in New Brunswick. He holds a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from the University of Moncton and is a member of the Chartered Professional Accountant Association of Ontario.

# North American Talent Summit 2024

## The Team



**CA Ritesh Desai**  
Chairman



**CA Vivek Kapoor**  
Past Chairman & Director



**CA Akhil Kapoor**  
Director & Secretary



**CA Tanmay Kelkar**  
Director



**CA Akhil Iyer**  
Director



**CA Shambhavi Sharma**  
Director



**CA Ankit Varma**  
Director



**CA Gaurav Kumar**  
Director

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