

# GLOBAL xCHANGE 2020

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Opening Keynote**  
Tuesday, February 18

### Nicole Verkindt

#### Tech Entrepreneur | Founder, OMX

Nicole Verkindt is passionate about leveraging the talents of entrepreneurs and innovation. Named "Canada's Woman Entrepreneur of the Year" by StartUp Canada in 2017, Verkindt has a knack for finding industry gaps and building innovative platforms and technology to fill them. Speaking to the importance of entrepreneurial and disruptive thinking, diversity in leadership, technology, and innovation, Verkindt empowers audiences to turn their ideas into success.

In 2012, Verkindt founded and launched OMX — the only online platform of its kind that manages complex supply chains in the mining, energy, infrastructure, aerospace and public sector around the world. The technology platform specializes in assisting organizations to maximize positive socio-economic impacts from spending activities.



**Closing Keynote**  
Wednesday, February 19

### Zahra Al-Harazi

#### Strategic Advisor, Purpose-Driven Performance | Leadership Expert

The road to real leadership is rarely a straight one. Among Canada's most successful entrepreneurs, few have faced more obstacles than Zahra Al-Harazi. With a no-holds-barred attitude, Al-Harazi helps people and organizations realize their potential for success. She draws on her experience as a pioneering woman in the business world with a unique approach to attitude, leadership and success, as well as her experience as a refugee, immigrant, entrepreneur and community-leader.

A survivor of two civil wars, Al-Harazi immigrated to Canada with her three children in 1996. She had no higher education or connections and very little understanding of the business world, but her entrepreneurial spirit quickly led her to start her first company Foundry Communications, an internationally recognized creative powerhouse. Her new company, Skillit, is a marketplace for life and work skills, where an education turns into an experience and a connection.

Al-Harazi is a former Canadian Ambassador to UNICEF and has written her first book, called *What it Takes*, to be published in 2020.