

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.

Ed Clark

Chair Vector Institute | Former President and CEO of TD Bank Group

Ed Clark retired as Group President and CEO of TD Bank Group on November 1, 2014 after 12 years as CEO. Following TD’s acquisition of Canada Trust Financial Services in February of 2000, Ed joined TD Bank Group as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TD Canada Trust. In this role, he oversaw the successful integration of the TD and Canada Trust banking operations. Before joining TD, Ed was President and Chief Executive Officer of Canada Trust Financial Services.

In 2014, Ed was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Brookings Institution. He was also appointed Chair of the Premier’s Advisory Council on Government Assets by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and in 2015, he was appointed Business Advisor to Premier Wynne.

Ed also currently serves as Chair of the Vector Institute, an independent non-profit institution dedicated to Artificial Intelligence. He is a Director of Thomson Reuters and a Partner in Radical Ventures, a venture capital firm focused on A.I. firms.

He has been honoured numerous times for his vision, integrity and strong leadership. He was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2010 – one of the country’s highest distinctions. In 2012 and 2013, Ed was named to Barron’s annual list of the World’s 30 Best CEOs. Canadian Business awarded Ed CEO of the Year in 2013. In 2014 Harvard Business Review named Ed to The Top 100 Performing CEOs in the World. In 2016, Ed was inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame. Ed has been honoured many times for his leadership philanthropy.



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.



Closing Keynote
Wednesday, February 19