



2023

TORONTO ORBIE[®] AWARDS



FROM THE INSPIRE CHAIR

InspireTORONTO - the first international chapter within the Inspire Leadership Network

A3



LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

Jean-Michel Ares:
Leading innovation like an entrepreneur

A4

The annual Toronto ORBIE[®] Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate & Corporate categories will be announced September 8 at Westin Harbour Castle.

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 TORONTO ORBIE NOMINEES

MONIQUE ALLEN
OMERS

GEOFF CRONIN
LCBO

RODRIQUE HAJJAR
Cohere

NAIM KAZMI
RBC

CONOR MLACAK
Loblaw Companies

RYAN SMITH
Real Matters

**BINDU ALVAR
THIRUVENKADATHAN**
BMO Financial Group

YANIC CROTEAU
Brookfield Renewable

JESSE HAROLD
Blackberry

TATJANA LALKOVIC
Definity

LAURA MONEY
Sun Life

MARTIN THIBODEAU
Indigo Books & Music

PAUL BELLACK
Magna International

DEREK CULLEN
Stikeman Elliott

JEFF HENDERSON
Interac

REX LEE
Canadian Tire Corporation

VINOD NAGARAJ
State Street

VICTOR TUNG
BMO Financial Group

ERAN BEN-ARI
BenchSci

ALOK DAGA
BMO Bank of Montreal

SAM HENECHOWICZ
CarltonOne Engagement

PAUL LEONE
Honda Canada

RANJI NARINE
Intact Financial Corporation

BENOIT TURGEON
Indigo Books & Music

SHLOMO BIBAS
Woodbridge

CHRISTINE DAY
Questrade Financial Group

SCOT HENRY
Orkin Canada

ANDREAS LIRIS
Maple Leaf Foods

ELLIOTT O'BRIEN
Oanda

AJU VENUGOPALAN
Zafin

DAN BOSMAN
TD Securities

DAN DICKINSON
Arterra Wines Canada

STEPHEN HOWE
Bell Canada

DAVID MARKWELL
Loblaw Companies

STEVE PILKEY
Toyota Canada

THOR WALLACE
NETSCOUT

BRAD BOWNESS
Hydro One

SUSAN DONIZ
Boeing

A.J. HUNDAL
Zurich Insurance

LANCE MARTEL
Staples Canada

ALI RAZAVI
Scotiabank

SHAMUS WEILAND
Manulife

BRUCE BURROWS
Sobeys

MICHAEL EUBANKS
goeasy

ROBERTO ISRAEL
Celestica

RENEE MCKENZIE
Open Text

GLEN RENTON
Ricoh

SUSAN WHITE
BMO Bank of Montreal

PINO CATULLI
GFL Environmental

HESHAM FAHMY
TELUS

PETER JAECCIN
First National Financial

RON MCKENZIE
Rogers Communications

RICHARD RIVARD
Saputo

JASON WIGHT
Ontario Power Generation

ALAN CAWSE
Geotab

SAWAN GOGNA
Think Research

RICHARD JARDIM
CIBC

KATHY MCLEOD
Samuel

KATIA SAENKO
Cadillac Fairview

JASON WILSON
Spin Master

EVERETT CHUBBS
BDO Canada

UMA GOPINATH
Metrolinx

FARUKH JAVED
CSA Group

ANTHONY MIRANDA
Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club

MARK SEGAL
CBI Health Group

GEORGIA WOODS
Canada Life

JOHN CHUNG
Morguard

GAYLEEN GRAY
McMaster University

MARTIN JEPIL
Avison Young

MARIA CHURCHILL
Deloitte Canada

JIM GRECH
TD Bank Group

**MICHAL
JORDAN-ROZWADOWSKI**
Porter Airlines

BRUCE MITCHELL
Comerica

AHMED SHARIFF
Rexall

STELLA YEUNG
Scotiabank



INSPIRE LEADERSHIP NETWORK is the preeminent executive peer leadership network of chief information officers and chief information security officers. The heart of Inspire is the value of membership in a local chapter, with access to thought-leaders across the United States.



SCAN TO VIEW
INTERACTIVE
CHAPTER MAP



FROM THE CHAIR

Leadership makes the impossible possible

Technology is everywhere in our lives, and when it doesn't work, we notice.

For nearly twenty-five years, the Inspire Leadership Network has helped CIOs succeed in today's most challenging C-suite executive role. InspireTORONTO members grow their leadership through year-round, member-led programs and interaction. Working together, CIOs across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations collaborate, share ideas and best practices, and create enormous leadership value.

The ORBIE Awards bring together leaders facing similar challenges – and this year – the Inspire Leadership Network will grow to 30 chapters, including the first international chapter in Toronto, and 3 chapters exclusively for (CISOs) Chief Information Security Officers.

Security is top of mind for every leader and organization, and the same principles that have served CIOs will greatly benefit CISOs as well.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO or CISO. But relationships with other leaders facing similar challenges sharpen leadership acumen. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation – and everyone wins by joining a peer leadership network.

Member-led, non-commercial programs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems, and avoiding pitfalls. Successful leaders understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships. In any gathering of technology leaders, the answer is in the room.

Together, we are transforming our economy using technology and security, and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of InspireTORONTO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists on their accomplishments and thank you to the sponsors, underwriters, and staff who make the ORBIE Awards possible.



Sincerely

Brian Shield

Chair, Inspire Leadership Network
Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer,
Boston Red Sox



78% of IT orgs have a well-defined AI strategy. Does yours?

4000+ IT pros share how AI Drives Innovation

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2023 ORBIE AWARDS

2023 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Jean-Michel Ares

Co-founder and CEO | CHORAL Systems

Leading innovation like an entrepreneur



By Carla Rudder

Jean-Michel Ares, Co-founder and CEO of CHORAL Systems, had always dreamed of starting a business. So, in his early 20s, having just started his first company out of graduate school, he found himself on a plane to Scandinavia to build a monitoring and diagnostics system for the government of Norway's electric power system, and he thought, "It doesn't get better than this."

Ares was in the midst of building his own business, immersed in writing code, and loving every minute of it, but a question was nagging at him: "I kept asking myself at this time in my career, am I going to be a software engineer or am I going to become an executive?" he recalls.

After completing an MBA, McKinsey & Company offered Ares a job and he knew he needed to take it. Three years at McKinsey led to CIO roles with GE Power Systems, The Coca-Cola Company, and BMO Financial Group.

"I enjoy complex problems, and the scale of these companies I worked at was intriguing to me," says Ares. "The opportunity to go into a company, understand it, and mobilize it to change and evolve: that's a huge undertaking and really rewarding when you get it right. McKinsey was the perfect training ground for me to move from being just an engineer to, suddenly, being in front of CEOs and business leaders and being asked to solve complex business problems. It was a huge learning curve, but I was hooked."

After 25 years in management and IT leadership roles, the desire to start his own business was stronger than ever.

"I had a vision of what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to create something unique, and I knew there was a better way to run companies

with information and analytics," says Ares. Ares decided to take the leap and start the business he had been dreaming about. Although he felt the time was right, nothing could have prepared him for the road ahead.

"When you start a company, it doesn't have nearly the clarity of definition that you have when you take on an executive role. You have to figure out everything from vision to execution and adapt quickly. It's not for the faint of heart," says Ares.

When facing challenges early on, Ares was often reminded of wise words from Barry Dillar, board member at The Coca-Cola Company, who told Coke's digital marketing team that if you pick the right problem and develop a great solution, your time will come.

"My vision for what I wanted to build was so clear in my mind that I thought, if I build it, they will come. Turns out, I underestimated the complexity of the go-to-market when what you are marketing is very innovative," Ares recalls. "But now, with the momentum and narrative around AI, we are able to have conversations we couldn't have in the past because more and more people are realizing that the world of data is changing in big ways."

With the rise of robotic process automation (RPA) and generative AI, there's more focus on data and analytics than ever before. But that data is growing at an exponential pace. Solutions that were once sufficient, like data lakes, can no longer keep up, says Ares.

"When you are drowning in data, there are near infinite possibilities for where to put your next dollar. The need right now is for high-value curated data. This is where the CIO comes in. They need to help their business focus on the highest value use cases, then

rapidly deliver a working analytics system to solve these problems in order to get feedback, learn, and rapidly iterate to refine and scale up," he says.

Ares founded CHORAL Systems to help companies do this better, but CIOs with a blend of technical skills and business acumen will be critical to helping their companies go from data to impact.

"CIOs need exceptional business acumen and a deep understanding of the company and the business model. They need to know the operations of the company well enough to be able to actually identify the opportunities to change the trajectory of the company with technology," says Ares.

"You have to be inquisitive and curious, think like an engineer, and continually ask questions about how and why things work the way they do. If you just understand technology or you just understand the business, it becomes very difficult for you to truly have an impact and make the right decisions on where to invest, what technologies to build, and how to build it to really change the business," he says.

To that end, Ares advises CIOs to never stop learning. He commits to continuous learning in three key ways: reading, observing, and doing. While reading has been constant throughout his career, he's also had the honor of observing great leaders and mentors along the way, and he makes a concerted effort to put what he learns into action. "If you think you're done learning after college, you better think again. Let yourself be inspired, dream big, take chances, and never stop doing the work," he says.

GLOBAL FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



Dan Bosman

SVP & CIO, TD Securities & TBSM, TD Securities



Dan Bosman is the SVP & CIO for TD Securities and TBSM with over 20 years of experience in Capital Markets Technology. He has a with a reputation for being a true relationship builder and an inspiring, strategic thought leader.

An active and visible member of the 2SQLBTO+ community, Dan is committed to supporting Diversity & Inclusion at TD and in the community.

He has three beautiful dogs, Skipper, Vida and Penelope with his partner Anthony.

SUCCESS STORY

A year ago, I was honored to step into a new role as SVP & CIO of TD Securities. This past year, there has been more change than in the last 5 years due to market volatility and the acquisition of Cowen. We've remained focused on delivering innovative and valued solutions to our clients and continue to invest in automating our systems and tools.

I have had the honor of working with the most incredible and inspiring team of individuals and TD Securities has given me the space to truly feel comfortable being my authentic self.



Martin Jepil

Principal Global VP Enterprise Architecture & Integration, Avison Young



Martin is a global technology leader with over 25 years of experience managing technology teams, driving innovation and transformation. He has held several prominent IT roles with Fortune 50 companies across several industries, including top-tier banking and insurance, manufacturing, consulting services and Real Estate. As an experienced business and digital transformation executive, Mr. Jepil has a proven track record of connecting strategic thinking with technology execution to achieve excellence and deliver bottom line results.

SUCCESS STORY

Martin has transformed Avison Young technology stack into a cloud native model, He has also build a robust data Architecture teams and helped building number of products in which the organization is utilizing it with its customers.



Katia Saenko

SVP, Data & Technology, Cadillac Fairview



Dynamic and results oriented global Technology Executive with a strong track record of success delivering digital and core technology transformation, establishing stable, cost-efficient IT operations and governance through high performing teams.

Strategic business partner driving significant business change through innovative and pragmatic application of technology.

SUCCESS STORY

Under the uncertainty of a global pandemic within 72 hours Katia's team mobilized 800 people globally to work remotely and ensure key business processes are intact.

Katia has replaced or upgraded over 50% of CF technologies within the last 4 years while laser focusing on business priorities and linking her technology strategy and roadmap to the key business capabilities/strategies including ERP implementation, standing up Digital practice, Data and Analytics platform and COE, Robotic Process Automation COE, Cyber and Building Operational Technology roadmaps implementation.

Katia's team maintains high engagement rates and has become a trusted business partner.



Victor Tung

EVP, US CTO & COO, CIOO for BMO Capital Markets, Bank of Montreal Financial Group



Victor Tung is the U.S. Chief Technology and Operations Officer (U.S. CTOO) for BMO Financial Group and Chief Information and Operations Officer (CIOO), Capital Markets for BMO Capital Markets.

Victor is well known as a respected thought leader in the technology industry and has been recognized as one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40. He also sits on several technology boards as an advisor and non-profit boards: Skills for Change and Ascend Canada.

SUCCESS STORY

Success isn't determined by one's achievements. It's based on the team, partners, and company you travelled with in achieving outcomes that make the world a better place.

I've been blessed to meet a lot of people throughout my career who have been and still are on this journey with me.

You may not like everything you need to do in a day, but make sure you are doing them in good company. It's about enjoying the journey and celebrating the outcomes.

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$13 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Monique Allen

EVP, Data & Technology,
OMERS (fmr)



Monique has more than 20 years of experience as a financial technology leader. She's transformed several digital business and operating models. An advocate for leadership in wellness, equity, diversity and inclusion, Monique serves on several not-for-profit boards that promote these values. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Waterloo, and an MBA from the Schulich School of Business, York University. She is an avid runner, cyclist, and musician

SUCCESS STORY

Technology is a team sport. My greatest accomplishment is the cultural shift that embraces collaboration and has unlocked potential that supports innovation and growth.

Today, we're working differently at every level. We've formed partnerships between business-focused technology leaders and technology-savvy business leaders, who are challenging the status quo to improve member experience, employee wellness, establishing measures for ESG, and adapting to geopolitical risk.

We've made an impact on how the organization collaborates generating excellence in outcomes. When positive change impacts culture, it's sustainable. Engagement increases, diversity improves and together we create a great place to work with purpose.



Hesham Fahmy

CIO,
TELUS



Hesham Fahmy is spearheading TELUS' transformation to a fully-digital, software-centric and cloud-enabled technology leader. With seven granted patents, Hesham has a track record of launching disruptive products and platforms in retail, IoT, fintech and software tools.

Hesham is known for building highly-productive teams and growing careers. His own passion for social capitalism aligns with TELUS' leadership in leveraging its world-leading technology to drive social change and enable positive outcomes for customers, communities and team members.

SUCCESS STORY

The CIO team is leading TELUS' transformation to become a software-driven, cloud and digital-first technology powerhouse.

TELUS is well on its way to achieve its ambitious target of moving 80% of all its apps, workloads and systems to the Google Cloud by 2025. The CIO team has completed 52.3% cloud migrations to date.

TELUS was recently named the first North American communications service provider (CSP) to be awarded "Running on ODA" status by TM Forum, recognizing its progress in adopting Open Digital Architecture (ODA).



Rex Lee

CIO & CTO,
Canadian Tire Corporation



Rex is the Chief Information and Technology Officer at Canadian Tire Corporation accountable for all aspects of technology including strategy, development, innovation, operations, and cybersecurity. Reporting to the CEO, Rex leads a team of 1000+ individuals and collaborates with global technology partners to manage and evolve the technology landscape. Rex is also a champion of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at Canadian Tire continuously seizing opportunities to advance equity, empowerment and fostering a sense of belonging.

SUCCESS STORY

Technology alone is useless. Applying technology without understanding the technology, the business needs, the long-term aspirations will not only fail but can cause major long-term damage to a company. Rex's thoughtful, courageous, collaborative and empathetic leadership style has been key in ensuring business alignment and transforming one of Canada's most iconic companies, CTC. Going beyond the immediate needs to address systemic root challenges has been hard but has resulted in a scalable, efficient, flexible, resilient and secure technology eco-system and an amazing passionate technology organization that celebrates diversity and are proud of their part in "Making Life in Canada Better". implementation.



Georgia Woods

EVP & CIO, Canada,
Canada Life



With more than 30 years of experience in financial services, Georgia leads the development and execution of an integrated technology strategy across all Canada Life Canadian business lines. She has also held executive roles in software development, infrastructure operations and as CISO.

As a strong advocate for diversity, Georgia has sponsored women-only hackathons, and is the executive sponsor for Women in Leadership at Canada Life - Canada and the Black Professionals in Tech partnership.

SUCCESS STORY

Since joining Canada Life - Canada in May 2020 as Executive Vice-President and Chief Information Officer, one of Georgia's priorities was to ensure the Technology organization had the capabilities and talent for long-term success.

Under Georgia's leadership, the Technology organization is firmly positioned to support Canada Life - Canada's current and future business strategy. With a new operating model, strengthened risk and security capabilities and a technology strategy and roadmap in place, Georgia and her team have provided customers, advisors and employees with the tools and the strong foundation needed to succeed in a modern and fast-paced digital world.



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ENTERPRISE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$3 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Maria Churchill

CIO,
Deloitte Canada

Deloitte.

Maria Churchill is CIO at Deloitte Canada and a member of the global Deloitte Technology Executive team. She has more than 30 years of experience in the telecommunications and professional services industries, both as an industry executive and management consultant. Maria started her career in consulting at Deloitte Canada before joining Deloitte UK. After returning to Canada, Maria joined IBM Canada in their consulting practice, before joining Rogers Communications where she held several executive roles.

SUCCESS STORY

Deloitte's IT team have aligned IT spend with industry norms while increasing investment, by creating efficiency, building staffing flexibility, and prioritizing to drive greater impact. We have enhanced staff productivity with intuitive solutions such as QR code password reset. We have created modern in-office experiences leveraging biometric facial recognition security, and speciality hybrid meeting spaces.

The team has also won three consecutive global innovation challenges, introducing capabilities such as AI revenue prediction and enabling new market offerings such as Smart Warehouse. The team has invested in sustainability and is committed to DE&I including launching an IT accessibility support team.



Geoff Cronin

SVP & CIO,
LCBO

LCBO

Geoff is an experienced executive and collaborative leader who has worked closely with many leading technology companies throughout his career, successfully helping clients use enabling technologies to transform their businesses and market-facing strategies. Geoff joined the LCBO in 2020 as SVP, IT & Chief Information Officer, where he continues to evolve the IT Division into a strategic technology partner and enable LCBO's digital market transformation.

SUCCESS STORY

Since joining the LCBO, my proudest achievement has been the transformation of employee engagement and team culture. Thanks to a dedicated effort on empowerment, education, and evolution, with a focus on inclusion, development, and recognition, we've made the LCBO IT division an even better place to work. I also see the relationship IT has with the business continuing to transform into a true partnership based on mutual trust and collaboration. After all, we are one team working together towards the same business outcomes - and seeing this in action is really fulfilling.



Tatjana Lalkovic

SVP & CTO,
Definity Financial
Corporation

definity.

As Definity's CTIO and digital transformation leader, Tatjana is passionate about leveraging innovative technologies to solve business problems, delivering exceptional customer experiences, and ultimately driving business value. Tatjana has global experience across multiple industries and expertise in digital omni-channel solutions, Cloud technologies, and data and AI. Tatjana is Chair of Definity's diversity and inclusion council, and serves on the CSIO board of directors and Guidewire Advisory board. She holds degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics.

SUCCESS STORY

To maintain digital leadership at Definity, I lead large scale transformations and build strategic FinTech partnerships. Definity was the first Canadian P&C insurer to have its core insurance platform take advantage of cloud technologies and Guidewire Cloud capabilities, amplifying the value and scale of our award-winning digital platforms. In addition, our exclusive partnership with Google Cloud to power insurance innovation leverages data, advanced analytics, AI, and machine-learning technologies. Equally passionate about giving back, I have always been a passionate advocate for women in leadership/STEM and regularly enjoy speaking with aspiring leaders and mentoring upcoming talent.



Paul Leone

CIO,
Honda Canada

HONDA

30+ years in IT leadership and Supply Chain experience

20+ years at the adidas Group - global project management and part of a small team that was part of the astronomic growth of adidas in North America

3+ years at Honda, most of which were pandemic based

A passion for treating people the way I was treated

'If you're not selling products for your company, get behind someone who is!'

SUCCESS STORY

I focus on two things:

PEOPLE

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

On the people front, build the leadership team of tomorrow. I have not brought in one single person from my prior life (for example from adidas or Sailun Tire). This would have been easy to do but could have been perceived the wrong way and could have created waves. Leverage what you have, optimize by putting people in the right roles, and keep nurturing and growing the team.

On the business partnership side, do what the business needs done... it's simple, but at times not easy to do!

THE DATA CLOUD

Mobilizing the world's data



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SCAN &
REGISTER



Converge24 registration is exclusive to Inspire Leadership Network members

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Christine Day

CIO & CTO,
Questrade Financial Group



Christine is the Chief Information and Technology Officer for Questrade Financial Group for the last 18 years. She helped build Questrade from a small startup to the largest independent online brokerage and one of Canada's best-managed companies for 11 consecutive years. Christine was recognized by Canada's Most Powerful Women in 2017 and Canada's Top Women in Fintech in 2021. She has contributed to transformative change in Canada, most notably Open Banking and Real-Time Payments Rails.

SUCCESS STORY

My entire career has been about building - teams, systems, and a great company. I built our technology team from 8 to 900 in 6 countries. The start-up team built QuestradeIQ, a best-in-class platform that today executes the 2nd highest online retail trading volume in Canada. Our highly automated brokerage systems, award-winning client experiences, and first-to-market product innovations are a testament to our brilliant technology team. Today, Questrade is a top fintech brand in Canada and we continue to evolve, building new offerings to meet our clients' needs in all financial moments that matter across realty, mortgages, insurance, and banking.



Dan Dickinson

EVP & CIO,
Arterra Wines Canada (fmr)



Dan is the CIO at Arterra Wines Canada, the country's largest wine company. He is responsible for all aspects of technology, data, and digital at Arterra, as well as the online/direct-to-consumer channel. Prior to joining Arterra he spent over 20 years in the banking industry, with experiences ranging from writing mainframe code at a big five bank to launching an enormously successful digital challenger bank from scratch.

SUCCESS STORY

When I joined Arterra I had two main objectives: (1) modernize our ecommerce/omnichannel capabilities, and (2) advance the maturity of the core IT organization.

In just under two years we've launched an entirely new bespoke ecommerce stack, begun deprecating dozens of disparate ecommerce sites, deployed entirely new martech capabilities including Salesforce, rolled out a new POS system to 170+ stores & estates, evolved the core IT organization, improved the team's diversity/inclusion/belonging scores, introduced a data science practice, begun a multi-year company-wide digital transformation, and much more.

I'd LIKE to take credit for how good the wine is, but I wasn't involved!



Michael Eubanks

CIO,
goeasy



An experienced technology executive, Michael Eubanks is currently the SVP & CIO of goeasy Ltd. having joined in 2020. Prior to goeasy, Michael was CIO at the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and the Ontario Cannabis Store. Michael is a graduate of York University, University of Toronto Rotman School of Business ICD Program. Michael currently serves as a Director on the Board of University of Waterloo, Toronto Hydro Corporation, Allstate Canada, and the innovation hub Communitech.

SUCCESS STORY

Typically as the first person of colour and the youngest individual to occupy numerous senior leadership roles in Corporate Canada, I have been told that I have become a powerful inspiration and symbol for many. My pioneering has removed barriers while encouraging others to dream big and believe in their potential. My journey has paved the way for a more diverse and inclusive Corporate Canada, fostering an environment where everyone is encouraged to realize their full potential.



Uma Gopinath

CIO,
Metrolinx



Uma Gopinath, the dynamic and visionary CIO at Metrolinx in Toronto, is celebrated for her broad industry experience and impactful technology transformations. Recognized as the "Tech Diversity Goddess," she advocates for fostering inclusion and promoting diversity.

Recently, her team earned the esteemed "Most Successful Digital Transformation" Award at ContentCon 2023.

As a Chartered Director, Uma actively supports community growth through her involvement with non-profit organizations, particularly in the realm of children's learning.

SUCCESS STORY

The Metrolinx Innovation and Information Technology team has achieved remarkable cultural changes. By adopting Lean-Agile-Design Thinking, we have enhanced project delivery and client engagement, becoming a trusted "Technology Partner for Everyone." Our optimized team structure, with over 300 skilled professionals, has generated cost savings and improved work quality. We prioritize diversity, with 40% of women leaders and 30% of women employees. These improvements have led to streamlining costs and an impressive 87% employee satisfaction score. Our "I&IT Leadership Manifesto" promotes collaboration, innovation, and excellence. These achievements position us as a "role model" technology team - driving transformative change and exceptional results.

CORPORATE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

UP TO \$400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Sawan Gogna

VP IT,
Think Research Corp



Sawan is an accomplished leader with extensive experience in Information Technology (IT) across diverse industries, including Automotive, Retail, Insurance, and Healthcare technology. As the VP of IT Operations, Sawan plays a pivotal role in strategic planning, technology operations, vendor management, budgeting, cybersecurity, and service delivery. Guided by the principles of respect, innovation, collaboration and empowerment, Sawan's leadership delivers impactful results, optimizing resources, driving innovation and maximizing the organization's IT investments.

SUCCESS STORY

In this pivotal stage of our journey, my team truly embodies the spirit of innovation and collaboration. We transitioned from a traditional infrastructure management to an Infrastructure as Code model. This strategic initiative not only strengthened our cybersecurity but also enhanced our business agility. The transition has helped enable us to swiftly adjust to evolving market scenarios, enhancing our commitment to support healthcare providers with top-notch SaaS solutions. Our collective effort resulted in shorter service deployment times, empowering healthcare professionals to leverage technology for better health outcomes.



Sam Henechowicz

CTO,
CarltonOne Engagement



Sam Henechowicz is the CTO of CarltonOne Engagement, Canada's leading loyalty, recognition, rewards and incentives platform. Sam believes that technology can be used to make work mean more and create purpose for employees within organizations. In addition to being an experienced technology executive, Sam has won hackathons, founded multiple start-ups and has helped fellow entrepreneurs grow their businesses as a technical advisor. Sam holds a Bachelor of Computing from the University of Guelph.

SUCCESS STORY

As CTO of CarltonOne Engagement, I led a complete modernization of tech and process including transition from monolith to micro-services, waterfall to agile all while maintaining strong growth and positive corporate culture. By focusing on opening our platform with API-first development best practices, and investing in self-service customization features, we regained control of our product roadmap and turned custom enterprise client work into profitable revenue. At CarltonOne, our purpose is to "make work mean more" while fighting climate change. We have funded the planting of over 17 million trees with a target of 100 million trees per year by 2025.



Farukh Javed

EVP & CTO,
CSA Group



Farukh is the Executive Vice President, Chief Technology Officer at CSA Group. As CTO at CSA Group, Farukh's focus is on driving business transformation that enables a higher level of service delivery performance, and sustained competitive advantage. He has over 20 years of business transformation and growth experience. Most recently, Farukh was the Executive Vice President, Chief Digital Officer at CSA, leading its global IT, Marketing and Communications teams. In this role he led CSA's global brand transformation as well as the startup of Artificial Intelligence based digital products. He joined CSA Group on August 8, 2016 as Vice President, Chief Information Officer chartered to modernize legacy platforms and govern cybersecurity.



Anthony Miranda

VP Technology,
Toronto Blue Jays
Baseball Club



A sports and entertainment executive with 25 years experience in all facets of the industry. Bringing forward modernization technologies like 0365, cloud computing, CRM and a multitude of other technologies.

SUCCESS STORY

Our greatest success has been the internal transformation from being an IT support group to a trusted and valued Technology team. The go to resource for technology related solutions and guidance helping to propel the organization forward in winning world championships not only for the city of Toronto but for the entire Country.

TORONTO ORBIE® AWARDS



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