

The annual Toronto ORBIE® Awards honors chief information officers and chief information security officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate, CISO Large Enterprise and CISO Enterprise categories will be announced September 18 at Westin Harbour Castle.



INSPIRETORONTO

Great Leaders Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

DG 3



Kyle McNamara Leadership Award Recipent

PG 4

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RANJIKA MANAMPERI

Ontario Power Generation

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SARAH MUTTITT

The Hospital for Sick Children & University Health Network

VINOD NAGARAJ

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RANJI NARINE

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Royal Bank of Canada

FRANK ROVITO

ALICIA SAMUEL Holt Renfrew

MARK SEGAL

CBI Health **DHAKSAYAN SHANMUGANAYAGAM**

Toronto Transit Commission

AHMED SHARIFF

Rexall Pharmacy Group ULC

KARINA SIDHU

Investment Management Corporation of Ontario (IMCO)

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Four Seasons Hotels

SHAMUS WEILAND Manulife

SUSAN WHITE BMO Bank of Montreal

MICHON WILLIAMS

Walmart Canada

STELLA YEUNG

Scotiabank



FROM THE CHAIR

Great Leaders Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

Connections with others facing similar challenges transform ideas into impact, plans into progress, and vision into reality.

InspireToronto brings together preeminent Chief Information Officers from Toronto 's largest organizations to strengthen leadership effectiveness, drive innovation, and create business value. Memberled, non-commercial programs foster meaningful professional relationships, enabling collaboration on shared challenges to gain leadership advantage.

Whether you're leading a large corporation or a nonprofit, there's no textbook for how to be great in a role that changes as rapidly as technology. That's why relationships create superpowers, driving personal and organizational transformation.

The Inspire Leadership Network connects CIO and CISOs with over 1,700 lifelong learners across more than 40 chapters. From public and private companies to government, education, healthcare, and nonprofits, we exist to help members navigate

and thrive in a uniquely challenging executive role. The leadership principles that have served CIOs for over 25 years are now available to communities serving CISOs as the Inspire Leadership Network expands in 2025.

The ORBIE® Awards recognizes the great leadership of technology executives in Toronto. On behalf of InspireTORONTO, I congratulate the nominees and finalists for their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors and underwriters for their foresight in making the Toronto ORBIE® Awards possible.

With the right connections and relationships, transformation is not only possible—it's happening today, as evidenced by the finalists you will meet throughout this special section.

Sincerely,

Tatjana Lalkovic

2025 Chair, InspireTORONTO Chief Technology Officer, Definity



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2025 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

KYLE MCNAMARA

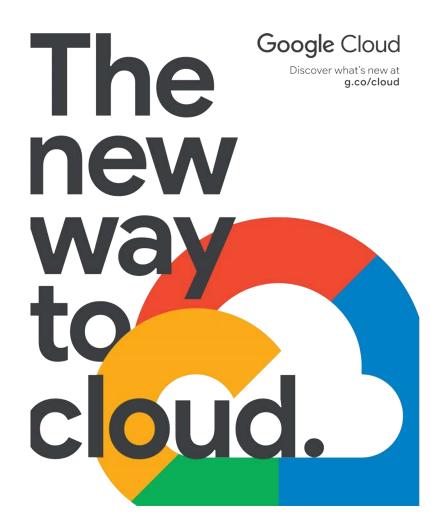
EVP AND CIO, CANADIAN BUSINESSES AND ENTERPRISE DIGITAL (FMR)

Kyle is a seasoned global business and technology leader, recognized for driving transformation and implementing complex strategies across major financial institutions, including TD, National Australia Bank, and Scotiabank.

Most recently, Kyle was responsible for Canadian Businesses, which includes Canadian Personal Banking Technology, Enterprise Digital, Business Banking, Wealth, and Insurance platforms. Kyle was also the chair of the Platforms and Technology Inclusion and Diversity Leadership Council, where he demonstrated his passion and personal commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Prior to joining TD, Kyle was the Chief Transformation Officer at National Australia Bank (NAB) in Melbourne, where he led a large transformation to drive digital, improve the customer experience, and enhance productivity. At Scotiabank, Kyle was the Co-Head of Technology, leading technology across all business lines and geographies, including Canada, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Tangerine.

In his career, Kyle has also led other functions including Data & Analytics, Small Business Banking, Wholesale Operations, and Technology. He has a proven track record of leading large transformation initiatives, including implementing Agile execution models across Journeys and Platforms.



slalom | INSPIRETORONTO

Congratulations to all InspireToronto ORBIE Award winners & finalists!

Your dedication fuels innovation. Together, we're shaping the future of Toronto.



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GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$1.3 BILLION AND MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS





MARJAN ANWAR KHAN

CTO | Canada Goose Inc.



Marjan Anwar Khan is the Chief Technology Officer at Canada Goose, leading global technology strategy and transformation. With experience across six industries—including telecom, financial services, pharmaceuticals, consulting, QSR, and luxury retail—she builds agile, business-aligned technology organizations that drive innovation and optimize cost models. Marjan is also a passionate advocate for inclusive leadership and mentorship, committed to developing future leaders and fostering a culture where diverse talent can thrive and grow.

SUCCESS STORY I When I joined Canada Goose, I set out to transform technology from a support function into a strategic enabler of growth. We introduced new ways of working through the Scaled Agile Framework, rebuilt our team to reflect the competencies of a modern DTC luxury retailer, and streamlined our architecture to reduce complexity. By shifting to a fiscally optimized cost model, we redirected spending from maintaining legacy systems to fueling innovation. This multi-year journey is reshaping IT into a global Digital, agile, and insight-driven business partner—one that empowers the business to scale, adapt, and lead with confidence.



LAURA HOPKINS

VP, Insurance Technology | TD



Laura is a technology executive with over 25 years of experience defining and delivering technology strategies and solutions. Through much of her career spanning to two GSIB Banks, she has spent a considerable portion leading money movement and payment technology transformation for global and national payment rails and capabilities. Laura is presently the VP, TD Insurance Technology, where she is responsible for technology transformation, delivery, and operations. Laura has an HBSc in Software Engineering and an MBA.

SUCCESS STORY II have had the privilege of working for two Canadian Global Systemically Important Banks in leadership roles responsible for money movement technology operations, growth, and transformation. These roles surfaced as Canada invested in a "once in a lifetime" transformation to move money quickly, safely, and with more data. Large-scale transformation of mission-critical money movement technology requires the best talent, solutions, quality, and resiliency. There is zero margin for error. I am very proud of my team's transformations across Trade Finance, Cheques, Email Money Transfers, High Value Payments, and Cash Management Solutions (examples), and for the improved experiences provided to Canadians.



NISHAT JESSA

SVP, Global Head of Technology and Finance Operations Oxford Properties



Nishat leads a team of 100 professionals responsible for technology, transformation, and finance operations for the global portfolio. She has been at Oxford since October 2007. Her role evolved from enterprise risk, policy compliance, investment strategy and risk, and operational risk to her current role. She has strategic and deep expertise in technology, finance, and risk. Nishat is viewed as a builder of non-traditional functions and creating sustainable operating practices.

SUCCESS STORY I Our technology function seamlessly integrates data and technology to drive investment and real estate decisions. We transformed operations, reducing the annual budget cycle by 35% and eliminating over 10,000 hours of manual work. We upgraded JDE 9.0 to 9.2, mitigating cyber risk, and developed a G&A and headcount planning tool in Anaplan. In 2025, we began migrating to Yardi, impacting over 600 users, redesigning business processes, enhancing data governance, and streamlining system architecture.



MIKE MAY

CIO | GFL Environmental



Mike May serves as Chief Information Officer, leading a 270-member IT organization with expertise in digital transformation and operational excellence. Under his leadership, the organization has achieved significant growth through innovative technology, including cloud migration, real-time data analytics, and Al-driven automation. May specializes in servant leadership, building high-performing teams and delivering measurable business value through strategic technology initiatives. His approach combines C-suite executive vision with hands-on IT leadership to drive organizational success and shareholder value.

SUCCESS STORY I Within three years, the organization completed a full migration from legacy data center infrastructure to cloud-based systems, supported by the development of a seasoned leadership team and robust process change frameworks. This transformation enabled stateless, browser-based solutions and real-time operations capabilities for thousands of mobile workers, along with IoT data capture and event-driven analytics for timely issue detection and resolution. Technology served as an enabler, but true transformation stemmed from empowering VPs and Directors through coaching and mentorship, ensuring execution excellence and sustainable innovation across the organization.

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$3 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE





FRANCO CHIRICHELLA

CIO | Canada Post Corporation



Franco Chirichella is Chief Information Officer at Canada Post, leading the technology strategy for Canada's largest logistics network. With over 20 years of experience, Franco has delivered large-scale transformations that modernize systems, enhance resilience, and drive business growth. His leadership has redefined IT as a strategic enabler, advancing innovation, efficiency, and customer service. Franco is passionate about building high-performing teams and leveraging technology to strengthen Canada Post's role in a rapidly evolving economy.

SUCCESS STORY | With e-commerce volumes in Canada expected to double, robust |T is critical to Canada Post's future. Under Franco's leadership, Canada Post transitioned from a shared IT services model to an internal strategic IT function — a transformation unprecedented in its complexity and scale. This initiative included divesting a legacy IT entity, securing a long-term commercial agreement to ensure uninterrupted services, and establishing a world-class technology organization. The result: a modern IT function that enables innovation, supports business growth, and positions Canada Post to better serve Canadians in an increasingly digital economy.



ANITA CHU

CIO | Deloitte Canada

Deloitte.

Anita Chu is a well-respected technology leader and Deloitte Canada's CIO, recognized for her influence and contagious drive for excellence. With over twenty years at Deloitte, she has led major technology initiatives, delivering strategic solutions and managing complex implementations across multiple industries. Known for her expertise in IT strategy and project management, Anita prioritizes operational excellence and innovation to create "Only at Deloitte" experiences by providing world-class workplace technology and services.

SUCCESS STORY I Our team delivers market-leading solutions, services, and tools that enable the firm and its people to connect, grow, and win. Digital Experience: Office technology is powered by AI, enabling a simplified, frictionless experience. Next Generation technology: We built an internal ChatGPT solution heavily adopted with privacy and security embedded. Strong and sound core: In our cloud migration journey, we have seen scalability and connectivity wins while keeping a financial operational mindset. Cyber and trust: Compliance and certification at the core for key clients and acquisitions. Operating Model: We run IT like a business accelerating delivery with cost tracking and accountability.



RANJIKA MANAMPERI

SVP & CIO | Ontario Power Generation



Ranjika is the Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Ontario Power Generation. She leads the Digital Technology and Shared Services functions and is accountable for developing and delivering the Digital and Shared Services strategy. Prior to this role, Ranjika was the CISO at OPG, responsible for the strategy and implementation of OPG's Enterprise Cyber Security Program. Ranjika has over 20 years of experience building and leading information security and technology teams in Financial Services.

SUCCESS STORY | My team has delivered a number of priorities in the last 15 months. We developed a Digital Strategy with input from all areas of the business and created a unified digital vision to enable operational and project excellence and deliver growth. We have aligned digital and Al investments with business priorities and cross functional teams are working together to deliver these initiatives and drive business value. We are modernizing the technology environment, practices and managing risk by strengthening the cyber security program, enhancing IT Service Management, cloud platforms, building resilient infrastructure, and improving our employee's digital experience.



RANJI NARINE

CIO Canada Intact Financial Corporation



As CIO of Intact Financial Canada, Ranji is responsible for technology across applications, infrastructure, and security. His team builds leading products for customers, brokers, and employees. Ranji is a seasoned executive with more than 27 years of technology and business experience. Prior to joining Intact, he was SVP Cloud & Transformation at RBC, VP Engineering at ScotiaBank, and spent 18 years across successful startups. Ranjii is a graduate of the University of Toronto in Software Engineering.

SUCCESS STORY | At Intact we have significantly improved the reliability and robustness of our systems. Over the last two years, we have reduced our major outages by 80%. Our customers and employees can see the difference. We created a modern reliability engineering practice where all critical applications and systems were fully monitored 24/7 while significantly improving our testing, rollback procedures, and incident where all critical applications and systems were fully informed 247 while significantly improving our testing, follows procedures, and incommanagement. We ended up winning a CEO award called "Open for Business" and were recognized across our organization for operational excellence and winning as a team. We've defined quite a high bar now for system excellence.



SUSAN WHITE

Chief Information & Operations Officer, BMO Capital Markets & North American Commercial Bank | BMO Bank of Montreal





Susan White is the Chief Information and Operations Officer for BMO Capital Markets and Commercial Banking. Susan is responsible for driving the Technology & Operations innovation and support strategy behind BMO's best-in-class customer systems and Čapital Markets business lifecycle, ensuring a superior digital experience for some of BMO's most valuable clients. With 25+ years of experience, Susan has an accomplished track record driving business value through building high performance teams, problem solving, and transformation change.

SUCCESS STORY | Two initiatives exemplify the high level of talent and empowered culture I'm proud to lead. Our industry-leading Credit Risk Analytics platform, built in-house, addressed a business challenge with innovative thinking and cross-team collaboration. This platform produced millions in cost savings and dramatically reduced run times for producing reports, forecasts, and analytics, boosting employee productivity and enhancing BMO's risk directive. Secondly, our multi-year General Ledger Program moved and consolidated billions of rows of data to one common code block. This best-in-class project showcases' incredible, enterprise-wide collaboration and empowers decision-making that enhances BMO's competitiveness and allows us to modernize with confidence.

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$1 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE





SHALU BAINS

Chief Information and Analytics Officer | Trillium Health Partners



Shalu Bains is the EVP Performance and Planning and Chief Information and Analytics Officer at Trillium Health Partners. She leads the advancement of THP's digital, innovation, and analytics roadmap, enhancing operational effectiveness, patient care, and population health. She is responsible for Information and Digital Services, Performance, Strategy, Business Intelligence, and Innovation and Partnerships. Shalu has over 20 years of extensive experience in hospital and provincial health system performance and in advancing digital solutions and strategies.

SUCCESS STORY | As Executive Vice President & Chief Information and Analytics Officer, I lead the advancement of the hospital's digital and analytics roadmap and performance, innovation and partnerships, strategy, and planning functions. My team and I design and deploy highquality analytics, innovative digital solutions, and security infrastructure and lead enterprise planning to drive our hospital strategy. We launched corporate performance tools, matured cybersecurity to exceed industry benchmarks, and are supporting the largest hospital infrastructure project in Canada. Under my leadership, we created an advanced analytics team and improved performance analytics, making us a trusted adviser in the



MICHAEL EUBANKS

EVP & CIO | goeasy LTD



Michael A. Eubanks is EVP and CIO at goeasy Ltd., bringing over two decades of retail technology leadership. He previously served as CIO at LCBO and OCS, and held senior roles at Canadian Tire Corporation and Best Buy International. A York University and Rotman ICD program graduate, Michael serves on the boards of Toronto Hydro, Allstate Canada, and Communitech, reflecting his commitment to innovation, governance, and advancing Canada's tech ecosystem.

SUCCESS STORY | Early in her career, | recognized a middle manager with exceptional potential, strong leadership instincts, and a sharp strategic mindset. I encouraged her to take on a challenging stretch role—one that would push her beyond her comfort zone and accelerate her growth. With the right support and coaching, she excelled. Years later, it's been incredibly rewarding to see her journey unfold. Today, she is the Chief Information Officer at a Fortune 500 company, and I'm proud to now call her a peer. Her success is a testament to believing in people before they believe in themselves.



DR. SARAH MUTTITT

VP & CIO | The Hospital for Sick Children and University Health Network





Dr. Sarah Muttitt has over thirty years of healthcare experience, including over twenty in eHealth. After earning her MD and MBA, she held roles such as VP at Canada Health Infoway, CIO for Singapore's Ministry of Health, and CMIO at Alberta Health Services. In 2015, she became VP & CIO at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), and in 2020, was appointed joint Vice President and CIO for both SickKids and the University Health Network.

SUCCESS STORY | As Joint CIO for SickKids and UHN, I have led impactful IT transformations, including implementing an enterprisewide health information system (HIS) that enhances clinical care, research, and education. These initiatives improved patient access to health information and enabled providers with real-time data and decision support tools. Infrastructure advancements ensured performance, reliability, and cyber resilience. By fostering trusted partnerships with C-Suite leaders and clinical programs, my focus remains on delivering tools that drive healthcare transformation while supporting efficient, coordinated care and research innovation.



ALICIA SAMUEL

SVP, Information Technology | Holt Renfrew

HOLT RENFREW

Alicia Samuel an accomplished and driven senior IT executive with over 27 years of experience. Alicia serves as a member of the CAMH Foundation Board of Directors and serves on the Pro Action Cops and Kids Peel Chapter council. In her spare time, she participates and speaks at women in leadership events and guest speaks at the University of Toronto, Scarborough campus on Digital Technology. She champions for women in IT.

SUCCESS STORY | Modernizing the way of work is critical for an IT organization's success in supporting and creating value for our stakeholders. Specifically, in the areeas of infrastructure, networking, software applications, and hardware portfolio management. As we work through our multi-year IT modernization journey, my team focused on using IT management and governance methodologies to increase maturity, optimize IT operational costs, increase efficiency, and improve stakeholder experience that reflected a better trusted advisor relationship between IT and our stakeholders. This is measured annually in our IT satisfaction survey. The team has done amazing work on this journey.



DHAKSAYAN SHANMUGANAYAGAM

CIO | Toronto Transit Commission



Dhaksayan Shanmuganayagam is the Chief Information Officer of the TTC, where he leads the enterprise-wide digital transformation of Canada's largest public transit agency. Beginning his journey as a university co-op student, Dhaksayan has built a 16-year career at the TTC, including the past six years as CIO. He has led major initiatives in ERP modernization, digital workplace, operational and customer innovation, and cybersecurity, helping shape the future of transit through the strategic enablement of technology.

SUCCESS STORY | Under my leadership, TTC's IT team has delivered transformative change. We enabled remote work for over 6,000 employees within weeks of the pandemic, modernized decades-old systems using industry-leading solutions such as SAP and Maximo, and deployed smart vehicle technologies to enhance service reliability. I led TTC's response to a major cybersecurity incident, restoring operations within four days and launching the organization's first Cybersecurity Program. By aligning technology strategy with business goals and formalizing IT governance, we have shifted from being an order taker to a trusted partner, driving innovation, resilience, and operational excellence across the TTC

LARGE CORPORATE

OVER \$550 MILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE





PETER BAK

CIO | Humber River Health



Peter Bak is the Chief Information Officer at Humber River Heath. He is responsible for the implementation of the digital vision, on-going operations of that vision, driving continuous innovation and transformation, and building the recently founded HRH Research Institute. Peter has a PhD in applied engineering from Imperial College, London. His skill and contribution to the healthcare industry are reflected in his recognition as the Canadian public sector CIO of the Year for 2016.

SUCCESS STORY I The successful implementation of a fully digital hospital — paired with the operational Command Centre — is HRH's standout success. It's not just the technology, but the ability to execute at scale, maintain high uptime, and transform hospital operations in a sector known for slow digital adoption. HRH has cultivated a reputation for pushing boundaries in healthcare technology: Implementing AI and automation early, developing partnerships with technology vendors, and fostering a mindset of continuous improvement and innovation among staff. The CIO portfolio is a major underpining of this success and a major contributor to positioning HRH as a global benchmark in digital healthcare



UMA GOPINATH

SVP & CIO | Porter Airlines

porter

Uma Gopinath is the Chief Information Officer at Porter Airlines, where she is leading a multi-year modernization of operations, finance, digital, and cybersecurity platforms to support Porter's rapid North American expansion. Known for building high-performing, inclusive teams, Uma has a track record of delivering transformation across sectors. She is a passionate advocate for innovation, data-driven decision-making, and women in technology, and serves on the Board of Governors at York University.

SUCCESS STORY I Under my leadership, the IT team at Porter is modernizing operational, finance, digital, and cybersecurity platforms to support rapid expansion. We are establishing enterprise architecture, embedding resilience into every layer of technology, and building data and automation capabilities that are enabling smarter, faster decisions. These efforts are helping Porter deliver on its brand promise of reliability, performance, and exceptional customer experiences. By transforming how technology is delivered and governed, we are positioning IT as a strategic partner in sustaining Porter's growth and competitiveness across North America.



JONATHAN LANDON

Chief Information and Technology Officer | The Salvation Army of Canada and Bermuda



Jonathan Landon specializes in delivering programs that are big and hard. He has implemented technology successfully in over 50 countries and played key leadership roles in projects ranging from business startups and new-to-market product launches, to divesting a \$2 billion global Health Care business as well as leading several large-scale transformation initiatives and participating in over 40 mergers and acquisitions. Jonathan has held global leadership positions in all major aspects of technology management and transformation.

SUCCESS STORY I To enable The Salvation Army's strategic plan, Jonathan Landon conceived and leads Accelerate 25 – a multi-year transformation initiative to improve the experience for 3.1 million Canadians served annually. The program modernized and harmonized key business processes that were previously manual and decentralized across more than 500 locations. A multidisciplinary team of business, technical, and change management experts was assembled to deliver this work. Now in its fourth and final year, Accelerate 25 is the largest and most complex transformation in the organization's history and on track to be completed within 0.5 percent of the approved budget and timelines.



AHMAD MAQSOODI

CIO | Andlauer Healthcare Group



Ahmad Maqsoodi is the CIO at Andlauer Healthcare Group, where he leads enterprise IT strategy across its independently operated entities. With over two decades of experience, he has delivered major initiatives including infrastructure modernization, ERPWMS/TMS implementations, cybersecurity governance, and custom software solutions. Ahmad is known for building high-performing teams and aligning technology with business objectives. Outside of work, he is actively involved in youth mentorship, supporting the next generation of leaders through community-based programs.

SUCCESS STORY I When a legacy core system constrained growth, Ahmad replaced a critical third-party platform with a custom in-house solution—boosting reliability, cutting costs by 90%, and restoring full data control. At his previous company, he deployed autonomous mobile-robot pickers that lifted productivity 58 percent, tripled peak-season throughput, and enabled temporary warehouse staff to reach proficiency within an hour. At AHG, he is leading the rollout of Al-driven shipping-document capture and route optimization—just two examples of a broader slate of Al initiatives aimed at sharpening efficiency and accuracy. Ahmad established AHG's first board-level Cybersecurity Steering Committee, aligning risk decisions tightly with business strategy.



RYAN O'CONNOR

CIO | Sentrex Health Solutions



Ryan O'Connor is an accomplished healthcare technology leader with over two decades of experience driving digital transformation across retail, consulting, and pharmaceutical sectors. He has led major technology initiatives at Deloitte, CGI, Canadian Tire, Loblaw, Shoppers Drug Mart, and now Sentrex, with a consistent focus on operational excellence, innovation, and cross-functional leadership. An MBA graduate from Rotman, Ryan brings deep expertise in aligning technology strategy with business goals to improve outcomes in complex healthcare environments.

SUCCESS STORY I I'm proud of my team's innovation-driven mindset and our use of AI to achieve meaningful business outcomes. We've launched AI-powered programs that enhance adverse event detection, improve patient adherence, and streamline internal operations. We've also embraced a horizontal planning approach to align priorities across teams, ensuring transparency, accountability, and measurable outcomes tied to corporate goals. This is underpinned by a purposeful, future-ready architecture and an intentional focus on team member engagement and development. Through these efforts, we have established a deliberate, long-term approach to building a resilient, high-performing technology organization capable of driving meaningful business value.

CORPORATE

UP TO \$500 MILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE





ANUJ ANAND

CIO | Ausenco

Ausenco

Anuj Anand is CIO at Ausenco, a global engineering firm in mining and metals. With 15+ years' experience, he leads IT strategy across 26 offices, focusing on AI, cybersecurity, and systems integration. Starting as a graduate engineer in 2006, Anuj advanced to CIO, earning awards like Top 10 Innovative CIOs (2021) and Innovation in Mining (2014). He holds a Master's in International Business and champions philanthropy through tech donations to schools and industry panels.

SUCCESS STORY | Our team has elevated engagement to market-leading standards through exceptional communication and collaboration, creating a dynamic ecosystem for innovation in mining technology. This has positioned Ausenco as thought leaders, shaping industry discourse. Key achievements include AI pilots optimizing workflows (15% efficiency gains) and cybersecurity enhancements via CrowdStrike MDR (40% better detection, 98% faster remediation), delivering measurable impact like \$1.5 million in savings and \$2 million in new revenue. Our approach redefines possibilities in a competitive landscape.



DAVE BRAJKOVICH

CTO | Polaris Transportation Group



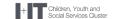
Dave's technology career spans 30 years and has mainly been focused on engineering, designing, and building core transactional systems for some of the world's leading fortune 500 companies. With key strengths in leadership and management of multi-talented teams, he has excelled in moving the needle continuously by ensuring practical deployments of technology with a direct impact on improving operational workflows along with providing an enhanced client experience. An influential change agent.

SUCCESS STORY | The most gratifying success of my career is the experience and knowledge I've gained from all the great people I was fortunate to work with! Moving from a manufacturing engineering role into an IT role within multiple vertical industries, manufacturing, healthcare, distribution, finance, and transportation. I feel I've become a leader who is respected and trusted in my industry by my peers and team!



ALEX COLEMAN

CIO & Assistant Deputy Minister | Children, Youth and Social Services I&IT Cluster (CYSSC)



Alex Coleman, ADM/CIO for the CYSS Cluster in Ontario MPBSDP, has 25 years of strategic steward leadership experience. He has implemented complex technology solutions on a national and international scale in consulting, healthcare, financial, insurance, and public sectors. Alex excels in balancing management science with the art of leadership, fostering a culture of empowerment, growth mindset, and belonging. His accolades include Global CIO Top 100 and Technology Executive of the Year.

SUCCESS STORY I I measure success by the way I touch the lives of my staff. CYSSC has excelled through a steward leadership approach, creating an environment where people thrive. This has led to high 2024 scores in Employee Engagement (78.4), Inclusion (78.8), and Leadership (75.4). Key initiatives include the Mental Health Action Plan, Achieving Equity Working Group, and various recognition programs. CYSSC's success is recognized with 2 OPS Amethyst Awards, 3 Hackathon Awards, 8 Project Excellence Awards, and 6 Impact Awards. Additionally, CYSSC was named Co-op Employer of the Year by York University and the 2025 Ted Rogers Top Co-op Employer Award.



JOANNE COLES

Managing Director, Enterprise Technology | Onex



Joanne is Managing Director, Enterprise Technology at Onex, overseeing the firmwide IT and cybersecurity strategy. Joanne co-chairs the Gartner Toronto CISO community and Onex' Technology Council. Previously at CIBC and Johnson & Johnson, her career spans several technology functions, delivering business outcomes through technology transformation, modernization, and innovation. Known for her calm, empowering leadership, Joanne champions the power of team, culture, and operational resilience, and leads through ambiguity, transformation, and change to drive impactful results.

SUCCESS STORY I When I joined Onex in 2022, I saw an opportunity to simplify the technical landscape and elevate IT's strategic focus, capabilities, and brand as a business enabler. I introduced a four-pillar IT strategy: Simplify and Standardize; Strengthen the Foundation; Modernize and Transform; and Protect the Firm. This simple yet powerful strategy shaped an impactful roadmap; we are now fully cloud-native with a technology footprint that has been reduced by 32%. In turn, the team has been empowered to deliver an analytics and Al innovation sandbox, and business transformation through the implementation of modern fully integrated ERP, HRIS, and Payroll solutions.



MARK SEGAL

CIO | CBI Health (former)



Mark Segal is Chief Information Officer at CBI Health, leading enterprise technology, data and analytics, and digital transformation. With nearly 30 years of experience across healthcare, telecom, and media, he has held senior roles in IT, operations, and strategy at organizations of all sizes. Mark serves on the advisory board at Queen's University's Smith School of Business and lectures at leading business schools. He holds an Executive MBA and a B.Sc. in Computer Science.

SUCCESS STORY | Mark led a comprehensive digital transformation across both the Home Health and Rehabilitation businesses, replacing paper-based workflows with modern platforms—streamlining operations, reducing risk, and significantly enhancing client and employee experiences. The initiative supported strong EBITDA growth and enabled a 35% reduction in IT spend as a percentage of revenue. Strategic renegotiation of provider contracts, migration to AWS (which reduced the technology footprint by 80%), and platform consolidation delivered lasting operational savings. A newly established Data & Analytics function now drives forecasting, workforce optimization, and acquisition planning—positioning the organization for secure, scalable growth through insight-led decision-making.



ANTHONY MIRANDA

VP, Technology | Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club



CISO LARGE ENTERPRISE

OVER \$1.3 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE





NIMIRA DHALWANI

CTO & Cybersecurity | The Hospital for Sick Children

SickKids

Nimira Dhalwani is the Chief Technology Officer at SickKids with oversight of cybersecurity, infrastructure modernization, and clinical systems integration and innovation. Her work is rooted in integrative thinking and a commitment to patient-centered transformation. Beyond her professional role, she serves as President of the Ismaili Council for Toronto and sits on the Board of Directors for Regent Park Community Health Centre. Her leadership is quided by values of service and lifelong learning.

SUCCESS STORY I Our cybersecurity success reflects a cultural shift—where security is embraced not just as a technical function, but as a shared responsibility. We've worked to embed this mindset across the organization, encouraging every team member to apply cybersecurity principles both at work and in their personal lives. While we continue to invest in strong technologies, we recognize that our resilience depends on people. A single uninformed action can compromise even the best systems. That's why we prioritize education, inclusive governance, and continuous engagement—ensuring cybersecurity is understood as essential to patient safety, organizational trust, and digital maturity.



PUROO MAHESHWARI

Managing Director, Cybersecurity, Portfolio Value Creation | CPP Investments

nvestments

Puroo is the Managing Director - Cybersecurity at CPP Investments and leads the global Portfolio Cybersecurity program across "\$150B in assets. He partners with investment teams, boards, and executives in infrastructure, sustainable energy, real estate, and private equity. Puroo has held senior cybersecurity and technology infrastructure roles at Thomson Reuters and TD Bank. He participates in the audit and risk committees of multiple portfolio companies and sits on the advisory boards of PhilanthPro, siberX, and Evanta.

SUCCESS STORY I I partnered with a CISO at one of our portfolio companies to accelerate his development as a strategic leader. Over 12 months, I helped him build a board-ready cyber roadmap, coached him through a live incident, and supported his engagement with senior leadership. We co-developed a 90-day remediation plan and launched a company-wide awareness campaign to shift culture. Today, he's a trusted advisor to his board, leads a growing team, and actively contributes to our CISO Forum—sharing lessons learned and mentoring peers across the portfolio.



BILL PEARCE

CISO | Definity Financial

definity.

Bill is the CISO at Definity responsible for enterprise cybersecurity. He brings more than 25 years of technology experience in the financial sector having worked for financial institutions in Canada and globally. Since joining the organization, he's been instrumental in driving the Cyber Security strategy of the enterprise and serves on the Guidewire Advisory Council of CISOs. He is committed to supporting Diversity and Inclusion at Definity and leads the technology employee engagement committee.

SUCCESS STORY I Definity is focused on maintaining digital leadership in the Canadian P&C industry by embracing innovation. The advancement of technology introduces evolving risks, and I am proud of the cyber team at Definity, who not only adapt to rapid change, but are committed to learning and securing new technologies. This skill makes our cyber team an enabler of business growth, allowing us to support our innovation objectives. This work was a contributor to Definity's journey to cloud technology, making us the first Canadian P&C insurer to have its core insurance platform take advantage of Guidewire Cloud capabilities.



ABHAY RAMAN

SVP & CISO | Sun Life Financial



Abhay is a Sr. Vice President and Global Chief Security Officer for Sun Life. He is accountable for all aspects of Cyber & Physical security, Crisis Management, and Technology Risk. He was an advisory partner at EY prior to joining Sun Life and has lived and worked in many countries around the world. He is the board chair at the CCTX, the Security Committee at the CLHIA, and on the board of Victims Services Toronto.

SUCCESS STORY I My greatest success is building an outstanding, engaged, talented, and diverse global team. Collectively, we led the Crisis response for Covid-19, responded effectively to the MovelT incident, stood up our Post Quantum Cryptographic Resilience Program, and enabled our businesses to leverage GenAl through the Secure Al Program. I am quite proud of our research with universities, teaching and capability building programs that create more cybersecurity professionals. I started a High School Experience Program, which has expanded to 3 countries and hosts over 50 students in the summer for an internship, encouraging them to stay in STEM fields.



PHIL UMRYSH

CISO | Intact Financial Corporation



Phil Umrysh is an accomplished technology leader specializing in cloud solutions, digital transformation, and enterprise architecture. With extensive experience in consulting and leadership roles, he has driven innovation and operational excellence across diverse industries. Phil is recognized for his strategic vision, technical expertise, and ability to deliver impactful results for clients. He is passionate about leveraging emerging technologies to solve complex business challenges and foster sustainable growth.

SUCCESS STORY I Transformed Intact Financial's security program by establishing specialized teams for identity governance, cyber risk, cloud security, cyber defence, and application security, all aligned with NIST CSF standards. Introduced advanced vaulting and threat assessment processes, integrated risk analysis into key business functions, and enhanced data protection strategies. These initiatives modernized legacy operations and enabled secure, scalable growth as the company expanded from \$42B to \$52B through acquisitions and organic development, while increasing team engagement in the same period from sub-60% to 83% in the most recent employee survey.

CISO ENTERPRISE

UP TO \$900 MILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE







GEORGE AL-KOURA

CISO | Ruby Life Inc.

George Al-Koura is a seasoned CISO with 15+ years of enterprise security experience across military, government, and commercial sectors, specializing in cyber and threat intelligence. He is the co-founder and co-host of Bare Knuckles and Brass Tacks, a podcast focused on improving the InfoSec profession. George also serves as a board member and advisor to organizations driving security and technology innovation in Canada and beyond, combining leadership, compliance, and business enablement expertise.

SUCCESS STORY I Under my leadership, our team transformed Ruby's security posture, achieving full cyber insurance coverage and passing rigorous U.S. FTC audit standards post-breach—a rare feat. We've built a culture of "security-first," leveraging advanced tools and military-grade defence to repel daily attacks from nation-state and criminal actors. From stopping massive DDoS botnets to aiding law enforcement in dismantling predatory threats, we've created a safer, more trusted platform for our users. While I've received industry recognition—including 2025 Canadian CISO of the Year—these honours reflect my team's world-class performance and impact as true enablers in the online dating industry.



IREEN BIRUNGI

Head, Information Security & CISO | Interac Corp.



Ireen leads a high-performing cybersecurity team, driving improvement, risk management, compliance, incident response, and identity access controls. With 20+ years' experience across public, private, and consulting sectors, she began in a Canadian bank's security operations and advanced to senior GRC advisory roles. Holding a Economics degree from UofT and CISSP, CISM, CRISC credentials, she contributes to strategic forums, advisory groups, and mentorship programs, balancing two children and her creativity through drawing and painting.

SUCCESS STORY I Since taking leadership of Cybersecurity in 2019, I've led the team through over 300% growth and secured year-over-year investments increasing by 20%, strengthening both technology and processes. These efforts have significantly improved our security posture, earning recognition from external parties and reinforcing Interac's position as Canada's most trusted financial services brand. Most importantly, security is felt across the organization—delivering on my vision to lead a best-in-class cybersecurity program that enables resilient, secure, and agile operations as a Prominent Payment System.



MIKE BURGENER

VP Cybersecurity & IT Risk | Vancity



Mike Burgener is a seasoned cybersecurity executive with over 20 years of experience leading security, identity, risk, and cloud operations. Currently VP of Cybersecurity & IT Risk at Vancity, he has built and led high-performing teams, driven enterprise security strategies, and safeguarded billions in assets. A trusted advisor to executives and boards, he transforms risk into resilience while enabling innovation and digital trust

SUCCESS STORY I When I joined Vancity in 2021, cybersecurity faced low engagement, high turnover, and unclear direction. I restructured the team, set strategic goals, and improved engagement to 80% by 2024. I established a governance function, resolved numerous audit findings, reduced risk register findings by over 65%, and launched automated third-party risk management—boosting cybersecurity maturity significantly. In Security Operations, I streamlined incident response, cutting containment time from 48 hours to 1, and reduced phishing click rates by 89%. I also formed an identity management team that eliminated stale accounts and strengthened access controls, reducing identity-related risks and improving system transparency.



TOM EVERETT

VP Systems Architecture & CISO | Metrolinx



Tom is an experienced IT Leader, having 30+ years experience in the IT Industry. His experience spans Executive Management, Delivery, Architecture, Data and Cyber. Tom has held executive management roles in startups, mid-sized organizations, and large enterprises in both the public and private sector. In his spare time Tom enjoys retro-computing and contributing to open source.

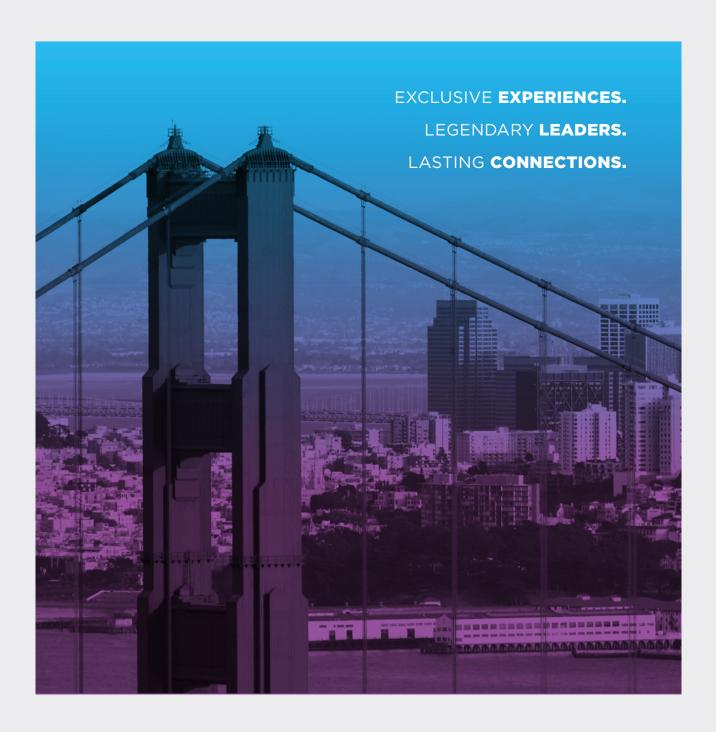
SUCCESS STORY | The success that I've experienced is the outcome of investment by others. I am a team member whom others saw potential in, and whom others chose to invest time in. Others gave me opportunities to grow and learn. Throughout my career, I have benefited from the gifts of mentorship and sponsorship. I owe those same gifts to others at the start of their career, and I try to honor the gifts I was given. As senior IT leaders, we have an accountability to the next generation of leaders to train, sponsor, and mentor them.



BRIAN CULLEN

VP, Operations & CISO | Rakuten Kobo

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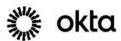


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