Welcome to PERSPECTIVES! Throughout this series, contributors from inside and outside the Internal Audit profession will focus their lenses on the issues of interest, challenges, and opportunities facing Canada’s internal auditors, providing you with a vehicle for discussing the hot topics and trends impacting the internal audit profession in Canada.

As Executive Director, it is my pleasure to launch this Canadian series and provide you with my perspectives on The Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA) Canada, as an organization, and on the value we offer to our Canadian members.

Who We Are

Today, The IIA Canada represents 7,300 internal auditors from across the country and from a variety of sectors. Generally, members work in internal auditing, risk management, governance, internal control, information technology audit, education, and security.

The IIA Canada provides learning, training, professional development, publications, and services for its members, and advocates for the profession to key governments, regulatory bodies, and related organizations. On the advocacy front, we have established the Canadian Advocacy Advisory Committee (CAAC) made up of senior member volunteers from the public, private, and academic sectors. Advocacy is one of our three key strategic pillars, together with Professionalism, and Sustainable Growth.

The IIA Canada’s mission statement: “Stronger Together” recognizes the importance of working with our 12 Chapters, the first of which, believe it or not, was established in 1944 – 77 years ago! Support for the internal audit profession has deep roots in Canada and this year The IIA Canada celebrated its 15 year anniversary! In recognition, The IIA Canada will be launching its Canada-wide Advocacy Framework with the establishment of four Advocacy Working Groups in the areas of: Academia, Partnerships, Private and Public Sectors. These Working Groups are being led by individuals with a passion for advocating on behalf of the internal audit profession and with deep roots and access to our key stakeholder targets.
The strength of The IIA Canada’s 12 Chapters – their knowledge base, expertise, and established foundations have built The IIA Canada into what it is today. Albeit a small team headquartered in Ottawa, The IIA Canada serves the internal audit community, its Canadian Chapters and contributes to raising awareness of the value of internal audit - creating one strong, national resonating voice.

Given Canada’s geographical expanse, our 12 chapters are accustomed to operating independently, such as organizing in-person events for their local members. The IIA Canada’s role is to support, collaborate and assist our Chapters to deliver products and services to their members. In March 2020, COVID-19 moved the dial on this established approach. The IIA Canada and its Canadian Chapter Leaders quickly recognized the importance of our coming together to better serve Canadian members in this now, new virtual world. We considered how best to pivot from hosting in-person activities to virtual ones, creating borderless, nationwide access to events and online learning and training opportunities that would engage members from across the country. Time zones and geographical distances were no longer a factor, and members could enhance their learning and training skills from wherever they happened to be. Establishing mutually beneficial pricing models, delivering joint events to avoid duplication and competition between national and local activities, and keeping members’ needs front and center are just a few examples of the win-win environment created by The IIA Canada in 2020 and which is continuing today. I am impressed with the dedication of our volunteers and the passion and commitment they demonstrate to support the internal audit profession.

Our Global Reach

Established in 1941, The Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA) is an international professional association with global headquarters in Lake Mary, Florida, USA. The IIA is the internal audit profession’s global voice, recognized authority, acknowledged leader, chief advocate, and principal educator. Globally, The IIA has more than 200,000 members. The IIA in North America comprises 156 chapters serving 68,744 members in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.

The IIA Canada members enjoy the benefits offered by The IIA North American Service Center including: local, national, and global professional networking; world-class training; certification; standards, and guidance; research; executive development; career opportunities; and more.

The IIA Canada has representation on the North American and Global Boards and on a number of North American committees, bringing the Canadian perspective to the table. Working with our counterparts in Orlando at The IIA Headquarters, we are constantly seeking opportunities to extract Canadian content from research, surveys, and reports. Critical to our membership growth and retention strategies is our gathering insight and data for Canadian members from surveys such as the Membership Needs Survey, and the research conducted by the Audit Executive Center. The release last year of the COVID-19 Report: A Canadian Perspective and this year’s Pulse 2021 Report Factsheet: Many Sides of Crisis - Focus on Canada are just a few
examples of our leveraging our affiliation with The IIA North America to better serve our members at home.

In Conclusion

Membership in The IIA Canada denotes value! It is a place where our members can connect, learn and network with their peers and internal audit leaders from across all walks of life, and professions. If you are reading this and are not a member, consider joining.

Check in regularly where you will find the latest news, views, and PERSPECTIVES of internal audit!

Sincerely,

Paul Forgues
Executive Director
The Institute of Internal Auditors Canada