

Message From The Chair

Positive Words of Support to IIA Canada Members in an Uncertain Time

By: Richard Arthurs
March 2020

Dear IIA Canada Members,

The ever-evolving nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is impacting people around the globe, and market volatility is creating even greater uncertainty about the future.

On behalf of the members of The IIA Canada Board and its executive team, I would like to extend our heart-felt wish that everyone stays safe while we follow the wise guidance from health officials.

I would also like to share some insights and positive words of support to all IIA Canada members.

- **Remain calm under pressure:** Internal Auditors are experts at remaining calm under pressure, and your professional experience during this time can bring comfort to those worried about managing risk and resilience.
- **Be prepared in times of uncertainty:** Now is the time to start discussing a plan B in case your critical team members or audit clients are not available to help you meet deadlines.
- **Manage expectations:** Make sure your critical stakeholders, such as your Audit Committee Chair, are aware of the potential that deadlines may not be met, and start discussing alternatives.
- **Optimize internal audit agility:** The more uncertainty, the more we need to be prepared to be agile. Expect that uncertainty will continue.
- **Stay positive:** This is a good time to reflect on all of the positives at home, work and within the profession, and try not to worry about what cannot be controlled.

IIA Canada is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our employees, volunteers, and members. We have been monitoring the COVID-19 situation carefully and are following the guidance and directives from the Canadian Government, provincial governments, the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) and local and regional health authorities. I encourage all of you to stay on top of developments, particularly as they impact us at work, at home, and throughout our communities.

IIA Canada is considering multiple contingency scenarios to proactively provide support to our members during this unpredictable time. As you would expect, our decisions are based on an abundance of caution, are in the best interest of our members, and focus on limiting the risks associated with the coronavirus outbreak.

- Communication to our membership via email newsletters and digital marketing channels is not expected to experience any significant disruption. We also will continue to conduct membership outreach via our social media platforms and provide regular and informative updates on The IIA and The IIAC websites.
- We are exploring ways to optimize IIA professional development services to our members via online seminars, presentations, training, and meetings, such as the decision to provide livestreaming of the

recent GAM (General Audit Management) conference instead of the usual in-person gathering. As well, while we are forced to cancel IIA Canada's April and May in-person professional development seminars due to travel and meeting restrictions imposed by companies and organizations, our online seminars and learning and training webinars will continue to be offered. IIA Canada's March 23rd AGM via webinar remains unchanged.

- We remain committed to hosting our 2020 National Conference – [Internal Audit's 2020 Vision](#) –in Calgary on September 13-16. Our members will have the chance to learn, network, have fun, and hopefully move past these current challenges.
- Various other events in our planning stream are being reviewed to determine the best virtual and online vehicles at our disposal to provide the best platforms for fostering discussions, information sharing, and providing value to our membership. We will keep you informed.

Stronger Together

The IIA global membership is 200,000 strong and spans over 170 countries. We are all in this together! First and foremost, we must take care of ourselves, our families and friends, and our communities. It is a privilege to have you as a member, and remember, The IIA is here to support you and the internal audit profession.

Take Care,

Richard Arthurs
Chair, IIA Canada Board