Once again we had a very successful national conference!

Well done, Winnipeg! The continuous hard work from our Conference Committee and local Winnipeg chapter produced an outstanding lineup of keynote speakers and tracks. With a total of 414 attendees, it was really an exceptional year for the conference.

And The Award Goes To...

IIA–Canada offers three awards that are presented to exceptional people within the internal audit industry. Our first award is the Arthur Child Distinguished Service in Canada Award for those who have impacted the profession. The second award is our Lifetime Achievement Award for those who have dedicated themselves through volunteer efforts which reflect a lifetime of service. Our third award is the Contribution to the Profession of Internal Auditing Award, which was not given out this year.

Congratulations to this year’s award winners.

Todd Horbasenko - Arthur Child Distinguished Service in Canada Award

Cam Hartling - Lifetime Achievement Award
On September 28, 2013, a strategic planning group consisting of board members, chapter representatives, and senior staff of IIA Global HQ and IIA–Canada (IIAC) met in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to update IIAC’s long-range strategic direction. The planning group came to a consensus on what will constitute the organization’s future success and addressed two fundamental strategic questions throughout day-long discussions and planning exercises:


2. Where is IIAC going? Its future direction and goals.

Principal consultant and subject matter expert Bud Crouch led the group through a lively planning process.

The group defined IIA–Canada’s vision, core purpose and core values, identified its 3-5 year goals, and brainstormed on strategies and indicators of success in delivering the Institute’s short, medium and long-term goals.

Currently, IIAC’s Strategic Planning Document is being finalized and will be shared with Canadian chapter boards as an exposure draft in the coming weeks. This strategic direction represents a compass which will guide and focus IIAC’s future strategic decision-making and ongoing operational work.

This direction is not about business as usual — it is about the change needed to stay relevant! It is a constant reminder, as the leadership team oversees the development of the annual operational plan, of what must be changed to stay relevant to what members are seeing in the real world.

IIAC’s VISION

IIAC will be a strong unified community of fiercely proud professionals with a great profile on the world stage.
Impressions on the Sixth Canadian National Conference of IIA–Canada held in Winnipeg

By Lal Balkaran

I recently attended the sixth annual Canadian National Conference of IIA–Canada held in Winnipeg between Sept. 29 - Oct 2. I presented two sessions but also attended a few sessions and networked with my colleagues. Like previous conferences, Winnipeg had its own distinct flavor that reflected a fusion of the host city’s colorful attractions, rich heritage, and new dimensions in the profession. The program had five well-thought-out tracks:

- Governance, Risk and Compliance
- Enhancing Audit Skills
- Fraud Management
- Information and Technology
- Supporting the Chief Audit Executive (CAE)

The organizers did a fabulous job by researching and sourcing some well-known speakers. Every session was well attended and the ensuing feedback was positive and encouraging. The entire program had something new for internal auditors at all levels (beginner, intermediate, and advanced) in both the public and private sectors.

Program

The public sector and financial services workshops on Sunday, Sept. 29 were well researched and presented.

The Monday welcoming speech by Conference Co-Chair David Sachvie reflected the overall themes of the conference and the continuing importance of the profession. Attendees were given deep insights into the power of internal audit as one key governance pillar through the keynote speech made by IIA Chairman of the Board Paul Sobel, whose topic “The Future of the Internal Audit Profession” was right on the mark.

It was good to see former IIA President Dave Richards, a speaker at the conference, in attendance as well. What a treat we had from former IIA Board Chair and current Under-Secretary-General for the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services, Carman Lapointe, who presented on “Rising to the Transformation Challenge: Which Way Is Up?” Her presentation and the points she articulated so well left a positive impression with attendees on the profession’s importance in corporate governance for those in attendance. Lloyd Axworthy, president of the University of Winnipeg and former Foreign Affairs Minister under the Jean Chrétien government, talked about proven leadership traits with his keynote presentation “Transformational Leadership.”
Finale and Expectations

The Wednesday sessions and Audit Leadership Event and closing events were another hit, and all attendees left with a great deal of satisfaction — highly energized from new ideas shared within sessions they attended. The impression left was that the internal audit function is indeed one of the board’s most powerful mechanisms for understanding the full spectrum of the key risks facing a company, and monitoring the effectiveness of related controls and risk management processes. Also, it is often the only function with the requisite skill set and mandate to conduct an entity-wide risk assessment.

I found the exhibits were well organized and strategically located offering attendees a range of products and services from sponsors with their glossy brochures backed up by never-ending smiling and sweet-talking representatives eager to grab attendees’ attention to sell their wares.

Monday evening’s welcome reception at the Manitoba Museum where you can travel through time to the roaring 20’s, explore a 17th century ship, and view treasures from around the world was quite fascinating. The collections and displays offered a rich insight into human and natural history.

The Museum also had artifacts and art depicting the history of Manitoba First Nations and their way of life. For the first time, I learnt the story behind key places in Manitoba such as Selkirk, Grand Rapids, Winnipeg itself, and Churchill. The welcoming party was also a golden opportunity to network and share ideas.

The gala event on Tuesday evening was another success with a real treat Winnipeg style. And the two IIA–Canada award winners that night, Todd Horbasenko and Cam Hartling, were deservedly well recognized for their untiring and dedicated efforts over the years to IIA–Canada activities.
As our 6th Annual National Conference concluded in Winnipeg, two officers were elected to new terms:

- Sheila Smigarowski, Edmonton Chapter, as Chairman of the Canadian Board
- Carmen Abela, Ottawa Chapter, as Vice Chairman

Three new members were elected to our Board of Directors for the 2013–2014 term:

- Jodie Lobana, Toronto Chapter
- Brett Naiden, Calgary Chapter
- Angelina Vavasour, Newfoundland & Labrador Chapter

These outstanding individuals join the following members on the Canadian Board for the 2013–14 term:

- Brian Brown, Winnipeg Chapter
- Jeff Erdman, Vancouver Chapter
- Todd Horbasenko, Edmonton Chapter
- Dailene Kells, Saskatchewan Chapter
- Linda Klassen, Saskatchewan Chapter
- Christine Lafrance, Quebec City Chapter
- Jeremy Picco, Vancouver Chapter
- Brigitte Samson, Quebec City Chapter
- Stephen Ward, Vancouver Island Chapter

Special thanks to our sponsors: Great West Life, London Life, and TeamMate for sponsoring the Photo Booth.
Rising to New Challenges – Ottawa 2014

On October 5–8, 2014, IIA–Canada will be hosting its 7th Annual National Conference in Ottawa, Ontario. Widely viewed as the flagship event for Canadian practitioners in governance, risk management, and control, the conference is expanding its focus beyond audit leaders and practitioners next year, to engage audit committees and other leaders in strategic discussions on oversight, leadership, strategy, and organizational performance.

Attending these discussions in the nation’s capital provides a unique and high-value opportunity: keynote speakers, panelists, and presenters will be drawn from the top echelons of the public sector, political cadres, and media. Private industry will mix with public sector leaders to learn, share, and debate hot topics and emerging issues.

A leading-edge program is under development and superb keynote speakers are already lined up:

- Carman Lapointe, under-secretary-general for Internal Oversight Services at the United Nations will speak about internal audit and oversight in a complex, political international environment.
- Richard Chambers, president and CEO of The IIA will discuss the future of the internal auditing profession.
- Rick Hillier, former chief of the Defense Staff for Canadian Forces, will talk about leadership under pressure.

Please visit our conference website for more information: [http://www.iiacanadanationalconference.com](http://www.iiacanadanationalconference.com)

Call For Presentations Now Open