Message from the Canadian Chairman

On October 1, 2014, Carmen Abela was appointed Chairman of IIA Canada. Carmen has been involved in the IIA since 2002, volunteering at the Chapter, National and Global levels. Carmen is based in Ottawa.

It is with great pleasure that I take over as IIA Canada (IIAC) Chairman. I am extremely privileged to work with and lead such a tremendous group of leaders from across the country.

Last year in Winnipeg, leaders from the National and Chapter levels worked together to develop the first Strategic Plan for IIAC. In so doing, we committed to some important and ambitious strategic goals:

- IIAC will be an optimal institute focusing on unique Canadian issues;
- IIAC will be the authoritative voice for internal auditing in Canada and will raise the profession’s profile to key stakeholders;
- IIAC will be the institute of choice for Canadians for learning and development in internal auditing, governance, risk and control;
- IIA Global, National and Chapter leaders will work as a unified community to bring the best value to our members; and,
- IIAC will be financially sustainable with an appropriate funding model to carry out strategic initiatives.

Since then, thanks to the hard work and passion of our volunteers and our staff, we have accomplished an enormous amount, building IIA Canada and generating value for our members. Of note are the great advancements we’ve made in advocating for our profession. In addition to the publication of Canadian thought leadership, we have built strong relationships with government stakeholders, with the Canadian community of corporate directors (through the Institute of Corporate Directors and the Directors College) and with other significant players such as CPA Canada. As well, our education team has made great strides in developing and customizing Canadian educational content. The extraordinary success of our most recent national conference in Ottawa is a testament to the value of coming together to network and develop as a Canadian community. Lastly, we have put in place a number of internal processes to support good governance and management.

But our work is not yet done! On Saturday, October 4, National and Chapter leaders met again – this time in Ottawa – to revisit our strategic plan and to discuss priorities for the coming year. While specific operational plans are being finalized, our directions for this year include the following:

- To continue to build an optimal institute and a unified IIA community that is financially sound, we will finalize the IIA Canada business management framework, defining the Canadian business model and service delivery mechanisms in support of excellent service to our members.
- To advance our advocacy efforts, we will continue to invest in thought leadership and expand the scope of our outreach to include the financial sector;
• To support the professional development of our members, we are in the design stages of the Canadian Centre for Government Auditing and are investing in leadership development programming for Canadian internal auditors.

All of these priorities are complex and require hard work on the part of volunteers and staff at the local, national and global levels. Yet, while complexity is high, so also is the value that will come from these investments. I am confident that we have the right momentum and the right team to make it happen!