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Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Halifax

2026 Conference Series



Tracey Allen
VP, Finance
& Product Integrity
Nature's Way of Canada



Martha Casey
Chief Operating Officer
EfficiencyOne



Dr. Katrina Hurley
Asst. Dean, Faculty Wellness
Faculty of Medicine
Dalhousie University



Terrah Keener
Dean, School of Access,
Education and Language
NSCC



Stephanie McGrath
Chief Strategy Officer
VERB Interactive

26th Edition

Women in Leadership

The modern leadership challenge

Co-Chairs:



Leslie Phillmore
Associate VP, Academic
Dalhousie University



Adrienne Power
Olympian
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones



**Roshanak
Sadeghi-Zadeh**
VP People, Culture
& Belonging
Halifax International Airport



Anita Swamy
Senior VP Operations
Medavie Blue Cross



Dr. Natalie Cheng
Medical Site Lead
Dartmouth Gen. Hospital



Shelly Dauphinee
Chief Engagement Officer
WCB of Nova Scotia

"An inspiring event! It was an absolutely wonderful day being surrounded by so many women leaders with such keen insight and skills. The order of the presentations was perfect as they built upon each other and a nice ending to wind down." – Linda Penny, COO, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

C-Suite Executives, Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Directors, Managers, Team Leaders, Entrepreneurs, Lawyers, Accountants, and other professionals who are looking for strategies to become more effective leaders in today's business environment.

JUST SOME OF THE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

- Learn how to apply high-performance habits to everyday leadership and decision-making
- Gain strategies to build and sustain high-impact cross-functional teams
- Find out how to lead well without losing yourself
- Know how to navigate challenges through adaptive leadership
- Get tips on embracing the loneliness of leadership
- Understand the importance of reflective decision-making

WHAT ATTENDEES ACROSS CANADA ARE SAYING

"Very well-organized event."

– TARA CLEMETT, Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan

"What an inspiring day with so many women leaders from many walks and career paths."

– Inspector VERONICA FOX, Coquitlam RCMP Detachment

"What a wonderful day! It is uplifting to be in the same room with so many inspiring leaders."

– TAMMY HAYDEY, Controller, EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc.

"I'm thrilled to share that I recently attended the FCI-CWI Women in Leadership Conference in Toronto and what an inspiring event it was!"

– EMMA JONES, Executive Search Professional, KBR

"Inspired! The calibre of speakers and their life stories were inspiring. I highly recommend this conference."

– SHELLEY ORGAN, CEO, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal of Newfoundland and Labrador

"Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this important event – strong women leaders lifting each other raises heights for all!"

– ANITA SWAMY, SVP of Operations, Medavie Blue Cross

PARTIAL LIST OF ATTENDING ORGANIZATIONS FROM PAST CONFERENCES

AGLC • ATB • Access Credit Union • Alberta Pensions Services • BCCPA • BMO • Best Buy Canada • Birchwood Automotive Group • CIBC • Capital One • Capital Power • City of Winnipeg • Coast Capital Savings • Concentra • Conexus Credit Union • Dalhousie University • Deloitte • Dentons • Dynacare • EPCOR • EY • Edmonton International Airport • Enbridge • Farm Credit Canada • Finning • First West Credit Union • Fundserv • Goldcorp • Government of NL • Grant Thornton • Greater Victoria Public Library • HIROC • HP Canada • Husky Energy • ISC • Intact • Johnston Group Inc. • KPMG • LTSA • LifeLabs • MNP • McMaster University • Medavie • Memorial University • Morneau Shepell • NL Hydro • NSLC • Nova Scotia Power • Office of the Auditor General of BC • PHSA • PwC • Pacific Blue Cross • Port of Halifax • RBC • Red River College • Research Manitoba • TELUS • The Mosaic Company • Tourism Nova Scotia • Vancouver Airport Authority • WorkSafeBC

FEMMES DE CARRIÈRE EN INTERACTION - CAREER WOMEN INTERACTION (FCI-CWI)

FCI-CWI is a leading provider of leadership conferences for women executives & professionals across Canada. With high calibre speakers from a cross-section of industries & sectors, the conferences provide attendees with strategies to become more effective leaders.

26th Edition

Women in Leadership

The modern leadership challenge

8:30 – 8:55 Registration and networking breakfast

Morning Chair:

Dr. NATALIE CHENG, Medical Site Lead, Dartmouth General Hospital

8:55 – 9:00 Opening remarks by the Chair

9:00 – 9:40 The science in leadership

LESLIE PHILLMORE, Associate Vice President, Academic; Professor, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Dalhousie University

Leadership is not only an art shaped by experience and intuition, but also has elements of science. Many aspects of leadership can be tested with evidence, allowing leaders to adapt their styles to different challenges. In this session, Dr. Leslie Phillmore will discuss the science in her leadership.

- How leading a laboratory and working with students connect to her leadership style
- What parts of being a scientist have helped and hindered her as an academic leader
- Common themes between science and academic leadership

Register early and save!

9:40 – 10:20 Driving world-class performance

ADRIENNE POWER, Olympian; Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

High-performance mindsets aren't reserved for elite athletes – they're the foundation of consistently strong leadership and sustainable business growth. In this session, Adrienne Power shares how the principles that drive world-class performance can directly elevate your leadership presence. Participants will leave with practical tools to strengthen confidence, sharpen focus, and lead with intention.

- How to apply high-performance habits to everyday leadership and decision-making
- Strategies to build a presence that inspires trust, credibility, and followership
- Tools to stay focused, resilient, and aligned while driving growth and performance

10:20 – 10:40 Networking break

10:40 – 11:20 Engaging cross-functional teams

TERRAH KEENER, Dean, School of Access, Education and Language, NSCC

This session explores strategies for creating, igniting and sustaining high-impact cross-functional teams by grounding them in a clear, shared purpose, even when that purpose is not immediately clear. Participants will gain practical approaches to uncover alignment, build momentum across diverse roles, and collaborate with intention.

- Defining a shared purpose through focused conversations and interactions
- Fostering alignment by leveraging diverse strengths and building trust
- Elevating collaboration through inclusive practices, keeping teams focused and moving forward

11:20 – 12:00 Leading well without losing yourself

Dr. KATRINA HURLEY, Assistant Dean, Faculty Wellness, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

Effective leadership balances responsibility with authenticity, allowing people to guide others without abandoning who they are. Trust grows when leaders act consistently with their beliefs while remaining adaptable and open to feedback. This approach shows that influence is strongest when personal integrity and professional impact reinforce each other.

- Leading from clearly defined values
- Fostering trust through authenticity
- Measuring success by long-term impact

12:00 – 1:00 Networking lunch

Register early and save!

Afternoon Chair:
SHELLY DAUPHINEE, Chief Engagement Officer, WCB of Nova Scotia

1:00 – 1:40 Navigating challenges through adaptive leadership

Keynote Speaker
MARTHA CASEY
Chief Operating Officer
EfficiencyOne

Through adaptive leadership, organizations and teams can navigate uncertainty effectively, foster professional development, and cultivate a culture of agility and learning.

- Recognizing the nature of change: How today's challenges don't have a playbook, and can be unpredictable, fast-moving, and why a "one size fits all" approach will often fall short.
- Why do we need to approach challenges differently? How do we identify challenges, spot the discrete issues, engage the right stakeholders, and change our approach in a dynamic situation?
- Building resilience and empowering others: How adaptive leaders foster team resilience, encourage innovation, and cultivate an environment where people can adapt and thrive together.

Martha Casey is the Chief Operating Officer of EfficiencyOne, a regulated energy efficiency utility based in Nova Scotia. Before joining E1, Martha held executive roles with an international NGO focused on advancing sustainability in climate, resources, and economies. Previously, Martha was the CEO of Atlantic Canada's largest innovation hub, and her earlier experience includes several years in leadership at Dalhousie with the City of New York. Martha is currently on the Board of Directors of the IISD Experimental Lakes Area and serves on the Advisory Council for the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University. She holds a Master of Public Administration from New York University, a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University Law School, and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Bishop's University.

1:40 – 2:20 Embracing the loneliness of leadership

STEPHANIE MCGRATH, Chief Strategy Officer, VERB Interactive

Leadership in any form is a great gift and, oftentimes, a lonely challenge. When you are at the top, the outcomes rest squarely on your shoulders. This reality can feel daunting, and it's often why we hesitate to step up, accept the role, and seize the opportunity. Reframing the solitary nature of leadership as an opportunity to build resilience and competence offers a positive, empowering way to prepare for leadership. In this talk, Stephanie McGrath will share:

- Real, scary, amusing, and totally true anecdotes about the times when leadership has come calling
- How it feels to sit with that loneliness
- The process for transforming it into a source of empowerment

Register early and save!

2:20 – 3:00 Fostering a growth mindset to unlock leadership potential

TRACEY ALLEN, VP Finance & Product Integrity, Nature's Way of Canada

Success in leadership is less about having all the answers and more about embracing challenge, learning from setbacks, and nurturing continuous improvement – in yourself and others. Discover the power of a growth mindset and how it can transform your leadership journey. Equip yourself with tools to unlock your potential and inspire those around you to learn, stretch and succeed.

- The difference between a fixed and a growth mindset and why this shift matters for women leaders
- Strategies to challenge self-doubt, overcome imposter syndrome and view feedback as a springboard for development
- Practical ways to build a growth mindset in yourself and your team

3:00 – 3:10 Networking break

3:10 – 3:50 Practicing reflective decision-making

ROSHANAK SADEGHI-ZADEH, Vice President, People, Culture & Belonging, Halifax International Airport Authority

Practicing reflective decision-making is the habit of slowing down to thoughtfully examine choices before, during, and after they're made. It blends self-awareness with critical thinking, helping individuals move beyond reactive decisions and toward choices that align with values, goals, and evidence. Over time, this practice leads to better judgment, learning, and more consistent outcomes. The session will explore:

- Core Framework: We will discuss a framework that is simple, repeatable, and human.
- Biases: Biases are like tinted glasses. You don't notice until someone points it out.
- Reflective Questions and Decision Making: How do we step onto the balcony to see the whole dance floor?

3:50 – 4:30 Championing ethical leadership in a complex world

ANITA SWAMY, Senior Vice President Operations, Medavie Blue Cross

In today's volatile and highly scrutinized environment, ethical leadership is no longer theoretical – it is a daily, high-stakes practice. This interactive session challenges women leaders to examine how values, power, and pressure collide in complex decision-making, drawing on real-world examples from well-known organizations and CEOs. Participants will leave with practical tools and renewed confidence to lead with integrity when the answers are not clear and the consequences are real.

- Exploring how ethical leadership is shaped by culture, incentives, and bias through real corporate case studies
- Examining the unique ethical expectations and pressures faced by women in senior leadership roles
- Applying practical frameworks to make principled decisions under uncertainty and competing demands

4:30 Closing remarks by the Chair and end of the conference

Register early and save!

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, 1919 Upper Water Street, Halifax

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly.

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

COMPANY _____ TITLE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____ REFERRED BY _____

Check applicable rate:

Register today!

Early bird rate: Until March 20, 2026

\$949 + Taxes per person

Regular rate: Starting March 21, 2026

\$1,099 + Taxes per person

SPECIAL GROUP RATE!

5 people for the price of 4

Register 4 people at the same time at the applicable rate and get a **FREE** registration for a 5th person.

Payment must be made in one cheque.

GST: 85486 8437 RT0001

Submit your registration form to: registration@fci-cwi.com

Please make your cheque payable to FCI-CWI and mail it to:

FCI-CWI
925, de Maisonneuve West #312
Montreal (Quebec) H3A 0A5

To pay by credit card: <https://www.fci-cwi.com/register-for-event/?id=6900>

Cancellation policy:

Send an e-mail to registration@fci-cwi.com Cancellations received by March 22, 2026, will be subject to a cancellation fee of \$250 + HST. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after March 22, 2026. A substitute attendee is permitted. Refunds will not be given for no-shows.

FCI-CWI may cancel the event if deemed necessary and will provide a full refund. No liability is assumed by FCI-CWI for changes in program date, content or venue.

Register early and save!