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Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Edmonton

2026 Conference Series



Jodi Baxter
VP, 5G and Industry Solution
TELUS Business



Noha El-Banna
Director, Human Resources
Alberta Pensions Services



Lindsay Engel
VP Academic
& Student Experience
Red Deer Polytechnic



Cindy Kieu
A/Executive Director
Business Operations Div.
Edmonton Police Service



Parveen Middleton
Partner, SVP
BDO Canada

25th Edition

Women in Leadership

Leading Authentically

Co-Chairs:



Pooja Rajmohan
Director, Sales & Marketing
The Westin Edmonton
Marriott International



Tara Schneider
Executive Financial
Consultant
IG Wealth Management



Kim Simmonds
CEO
Primary Care Alberta



Ria Ames
Assoc. VP, Shared Services
University of Alberta



Jacqueline Smith
VP, Regulatory
ATCO Energy Systems

"It was an incredible experience to connect with so many remarkable women leaders. I left the day feeling recharged, reflective, and proud to be part of a community that continues to lift one another up." – **Cristal Glass-Painchaud, CHRO, Red Deer Polytechnic**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

C-suite executives, presidents, vice presidents, directors, managers, team leaders, entrepreneurs, lawyers, accountants, and other professionals seeking to become more effective leaders in today's business environment

REASONS TO ATTEND

- Explore how timing, language, and tone can become strategic tools for asserting with confidence
- Examine practical ways to influence outcomes by aligning communication, consistency, and behaviour
- Identify the key factors that influence employee engagement
- Discover how leaders can create ripple effects that transform teams and organizations
- Understand the value of mentorship for individuals and organizations
- Learn strategies for making timely decisions when the path forward is unclear

A PARTIAL LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT PAST CONFERENCES

AGLC • Access Credit Union • BCLC • BDC • BLG • BMO • Best Buy Canada • Birchwood Automotive Group • Capital One • Capital Power • City of Winnipeg • Coast Capital Savings • Concentra • Conexus Credit Union • Dalhousie University • Deloitte • Dentons • Dynacare • EPCOR • EY • Edmonton Global • Edmonton International Airport • Enbridge • Farm Credit Canada • Finning • First West Credit Union • Fountain Tire • Fundserv • Government of Alberta • Grant Thornton • Greater Victoria Public Library • HIROC • HP Canada • Husky Energy • ISC • ISM Canada • Intact • Johnston Group Inc. • KPMG • LTSA • LifeLabs • MNP • McMaster University • Medavie • Memorial University • Moneris • NL Hydro • NSLC • Nova Scotia Power • Office of the Auditor General of BC • PNI Media • PwC • Pacific Blue Cross • Port of Halifax • Prospera CU • RBC • Research Manitoba • SaskPower • The Mosaic Company • University of Alberta • Vancouver Airport Authority

WHAT ATTENDEES ACROSS CANADA ARE SAYING

"Fantastic event and experience – thank you for curating this opportunity for leaders to connect!"

– MEGAN DOUGLAS, Former SVP, Chief Brand & Commercial Officer, Saskatchewan Blue Cross

"What a great day networking with women leaders and learning so much about their lessons learned and success."

– KAREN FRY, Fire Chief/GM, City of Vancouver

"What an inspiring day around leadership excellence, resilience and transformation! Thanks for holding space for us to connect!"

– NICOLE KARAM, Vice President. TELUS

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

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

"This is a fabulous conference for sharing and providing support of leaders across all industries. Regardless of industry, there is relevance in the practical and immediately applicable information shared. I would highly recommend attending this event."

– KERRI ROBERTSON, VP Member Engagement, Assiniboine Credit Union

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

– ANITA SWAMY, SVP of Operations, Medavie Blue Cross

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

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

8:30 – 8:55 Registration and networking breakfast

Morning Chair:
JACQUELINE SMITH, VP Regulatory, ATCO Energy Systems

8:55 – 9:00 Opening remarks by Chair

9:00 – 9:40 Asserting with confidence

CINDY KIEU, A/Executive Director, Business Operations Division, Edmonton Police Service

Asserting with confidence reframes leadership not as personality, but as practice – shaped by purpose, intention, and curiosity. Drawing on experience across public law, executive leadership within one of Canada's largest municipal police services, and decades of community and board services, Cindy Kieu explores how the following tools can become strategic – enabling women to lead with clarity, credibility, and authority.

- Timing
- Language
- Tone

9:40 – 10:20 The ability to influence

PARVEEN MIDDLETON, Partner, SVP, BDO Canada

Influence sits at the heart of effective leadership, particularly when authority alone is not enough. This session explores how leaders create influence through trust, credibility, and clarity – enabling ideas to move from intention to impact. Participants will examine practical ways to influence outcomes by aligning communication, consistency, and behaviour.

- Building trust through credibility and follow-through
- Aligning vision with clear, intentional communication
- Developing strategies to create sustainable influence across teams

10:20 – 10:40 Networking break

10:40 – 11:20 Driving engagement in the workplace

POOJA RAJMOHAN, Director, Sales and Marketing, The Westin Edmonton, Marriott International

Employee engagement is a critical driver of performance and organizational resilience. When leaders understand what drives engagement, they can strengthen commitment across their teams. This session will explore how leaders can cultivate an environment that encourages engagement and enables individuals and teams to perform at their best.

- Identifying the key factors that influence employee engagement
- Recognizing and leveraging individual strengths to motivate performance
- Implementing practical leadership strategies to sustain engagement over time

Reserve early and save!

11:20 – 12:00 Making an impact as a leader

JODI BAXTER, VP, 5G and Industry Solutions, TELUS Business

Effective leadership goes beyond managing tasks; it's about inspiring people, driving meaningful change, and creating lasting value for your organization and community. Leaders who make a true impact understand that their influence extends far beyond their immediate responsibilities, shaping culture, developing talent, and setting a vision that motivates others to achieve collective goals. By focusing on authenticity, strategic thinking, leading with empathy and empowering those around them, impactful leaders create ripple effects that transform teams and organizations.

- Lead with purpose and vision – Articulate a clear, compelling vision that aligns your team's efforts with organizational goals, giving people a sense of meaning and direction in their work
- Develop and empower others – Invest in your team's growth through mentorship, delegation, and creating opportunities for people to stretch their capabilities and take ownership of important initiatives
- Drive change through action – Model the behaviours and values you want to see, make courageous decisions even in uncertainty, and create tangible results that demonstrate your commitment to continuous improvement

12:00 – 1:00 Networking lunch

Afternoon Chair:

RIA AMES, Associate VP, Shared Services, University of Alberta

1:00 – 1:40 Mentoring for success

Keynote:
KIM SIMMONDS
CEO
Primary Care Alberta

Mentorship provides benefits to both the mentor and mentee. Sharing some personal experience of the benefits of mentorship, including knowledge, expanded networks and career planning. This session is an opportunity to discuss the value of mentorship to individuals and organizations.

- Benefits of mentorship
- Practical tools for mentors/mentees
- Creating organizations that support mentorship

Kim Simmonds, PhD, assumed the role of Primary Care Alberta Chief Executive Officer on Nov. 18, 2024. Kim is an accomplished executive with a wealth of experience in leadership roles within the public and private sectors. She served as an Alberta Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and in an international business consulting firm. Kim holds a PhD in epidemiology from the University of Calgary.

Reserve early and save!

1:40 – 2:20 Decisiveness in uncertain times: Leading in a BANI World

NOHA EL-BANNA, Director, Human Resources, Alberta Pensions Services

In today's complex and fast-changing environments, leaders are often required to make decisions without complete information, clear answers, or the luxury of time. This session explores how women leaders can strengthen their decisiveness while balancing risk, empathy, and accountability in moments of ambiguity. Participants will gain practical insights into leading with clarity and confidence when certainty is not an option.

- How to move from analysis paralysis to purposeful action in uncertain and high-stakes situations
- Practical strategies for making sound decisions while managing risk, competing priorities, and stakeholder expectations
- Building personal confidence and organizational trust through transparent and values-based decision-making

2:20 – 2:40 Networking break

2:40 – 3:20 Turning strategy into action

LINDSAY ENGEL, VP Academic & Student Experience, Red Deer Polytechnic

Strategy only matters if it changes daily decisions, behaviours, and priorities. Turning strategy into action requires more than setting direction – it requires consistent execution across the organization. In this session, Lindsay Engel will focus on three key elements:

- Good planning
- Space for experimentation and failure
- Strong teams, not just strong individuals

3:20 – 4:00 Navigating challenges through adaptive leadership

TARA SCHNEIDER, Executive Financial Consultant, IG Wealth Management

Organizations today operate in environments defined by uncertainty and evolving expectations. By encouraging innovation and empowering teams, leaders can create conditions where people respond effectively to change. This approach helps organizations remain resilient and continue moving forward despite disruption.

- Recognizing when leadership approaches need to shift
- Maintaining resilience and focus during periods of disruption
- Adjusting leadership approaches as circumstances evolve

4:00 Closing remarks of the Chair and end of conference

Reserve early and save!

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Wednesday, May 20, 2026
The Westin Edmonton, 10135 100 St NW, Edmonton

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly.

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

COMPANY _____ TITLE _____

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Check the applicable rate:

Register today!

Early bird rate: Until April 17, 2026

\$949 + Tax per person

Regular rate: Starting April 18, 2026

\$1,099 + Tax per person

SPECIAL GROUP RATE

5 people for the price of 4

Register 4 people at the applicable rate, and the 5th attends FREE.
All registrations must be paid in one cheque.

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=6904>

Cancellation policy:

To cancel your registration, send an email to registration@fci-cwi.com. Cancellations received on or before April 20, 2026, are subject to a cancellation fee of \$250 + tax; after this date, registration fees are non-refundable. A substitute attendee may attend at no additional cost. Refunds will not be given for no-shows.

FCI-CWI reserves the right to cancel the event if necessary and will provide a full refund. FCI-CWI assumes no liability for changes in program date, content or venue and is not responsible for travel or accommodation costs.

Reserve early and save!