



OWIT TORONTO NEWS

Happy New Year - From all of us at the Organization of Women in International Trade – Toronto (OWIT-Toronto), thank you for your engagement and support in 2023. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you throughout 2024.

With every good wish to you for a successful and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Your OWIT-Toronto Board of Directors



OWIT - Toronto Events

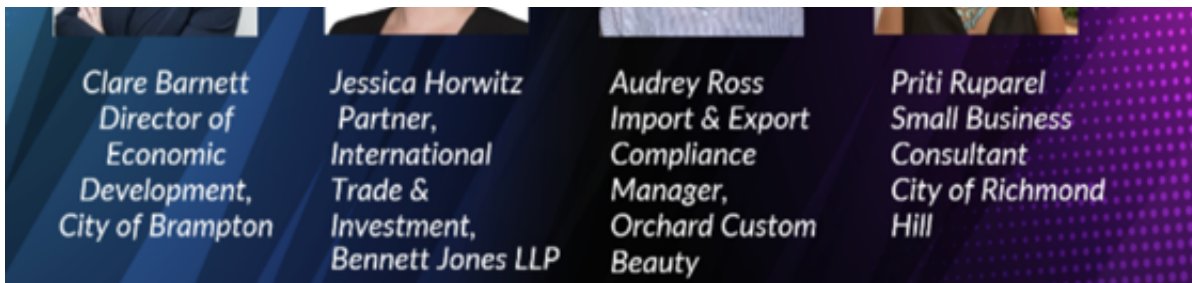
2023 Export Awards

We recognize and celebrate the achievements of women
in international trade

On November 16, OWIT-Toronto announced and celebrated the 2023 Export Awards nominees and winners. The full-house celebration recognized and celebrated the achievements of women in international trade.

Our prestigious Export Awards were held in person at the Ontario Investment and Trade Centre on December 1, 2023, celebrating the achievements of women who, through their careers and personal commitments, foster international trade and the advancement of women. The Awards ceremony provides special recognition to our Canadian women exporters and international trade professionals. It also included a lively panel discussion on navigating the global marketplace, featuring four accomplished OWIT Board members – Clare Barnett, Priti Ruparel, Audrey Ross and Jessica Horwitz – who shared the highlights of their different career paths in international trade.





Congratulations to our outstanding Award winners and to all nominees for their continued dedicated work in international trade!

Excellence Award for Leadership in International Trade - *Dr Wendy Cukier*



Photo: Excellence Award for Leadership in International Trade, Dr Wendy Cukier, presented by Jessica Horwitz, Bennett Jones, and OWIT VP Legal.

Photo credit: Shay Markowitz

Woman Exporter of the Year Award - *Patra De Silva*





Photo: Woman Exporter of the Year - Patra De Silva, President NHV Natural Pet Products, presented by Shay Lowe, Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (WEKH).

Photo credit: Shay Markowitz

Student of International Trade Award - Oluwayomi Dime



Photo: Student of the Year - Oluwayomi Dime, Centennial College, presented by Clare Barnett, The City of Brampton, OWIT-Toronto VP Communications.

Photo credit: Shay Markowitz



[Read more](#)

Special thanks to our valued Export Award sponsors

GOLD

- Bennett Jones**
- Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub**
Portail de connaissances pour les femmes en entrepreneuriat

SILVER

- 20**
- CENTENNIAL COLLEGE**

BRONZE

- ORCHARD**
CUSTOM BEAUTY
- Jewels 4 Ever*

Fall Networking Event



In support of **Small Business week**, OWIT-Toronto hosted a Fall Networking Event on October 18 in partnership with the Entrepreneurs' Point for OWIT-Toronto members and non-members. Co-President, Audrey Ross, and VP of Events, Aliaa Al Safarjlani, organized and attended the event with our hosts at Entrepreneurs' Point.

Webinar on "EV Transition on Northern Mexico Outlook Exploring Opportunities for Canadian Exporters"



EV Transition in Northern Mexico Outlook Exploring Opportunities for Canadian Exporters



Sandra Shaddick
Consul General of Canada in Monterrey



Misti Rice
Executive Director of Government Affairs
Magna International Inc.



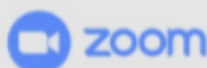
Enrique Hurtado Godinez de Mendoza
General Counsel
Kia Mexico

Electric vehicle production is growing at a fast pace in Northern Mexico with the arrival of Tesla and other big automakers like KIA increasing its EV production. CUSMA agreement rules of origin require North American content creating opportunities for suppliers in the region.

Join us for this panel discussion webinar.

DATE	TORONTO TIME	MONTERREY TIME
Thursday, October 19, 2023	11:00AM to 12:15PM	09:00AM to 10:15AM

info@owit-toronto.ca
direccion@canchammy.org



On October 19, OWIT-Toronto and our partner, [The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Monterrey Chapter](#) hosted a panel discussion webinar on the electric vehicle industry in northern Mexico. This informative webinar was a joint effort between OWIT- Toronto and CanCham-Mty and an outcome of the collaboration agreement signed in March this year in Monterrey.

Discussion on "The Geopolitics of International Trade: Strategies for Building Business Resilience"



Panel Discussion

Moderator



Sandra Papatello
Canadian International Avenues Ltd, former Ontario Minister of Economic Development & Trade



Joanne Freeman
Country Director for Canada, United Kingdom Department for Business and International Trade



Amesika Baeta
Regional Director, GTA West, Mid-Market Business Export Development Canada



Jessica Horwitz
Partner, International Trade and Investment Group, Bennett Jones LLP

OWIT-Toronto hosted an insightful discussion on the geopolitical challenges international trade is currently facing, on building a resilient business strategy in a changing geopolitical landscape, and why making geopolitical resilience a strategic priority for businesses' global footprint expansion should be of utmost significance.

This discussion followed Chatham House Rules and was followed by a networking event hosted by Bennett Jones.

Where We've Been



Women's Entrepreneurship Day at Stock Exchange

On November 17, Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (WEKH) and the Ontario government joined Cheryl Graden, of the TMX Group, to open the market and celebrate Women's Entrepreneurship Day. Held annually on November 19, Women's Entrepreneurship Day is a day on which the work of women entrepreneurs is celebrated. OWIT-Toronto Co-President, Audrey Ross, and Board Members, Jessica Horwitz and Susan Baka, attended.



Toronto Global Forum

OWIT-Toronto representatives attended the 2023 [Toronto Global Forum](#) which acts as a platform where organizations and institutions can connect with a focus on potential partnerships, investment opportunities and future collaboration. As countries and industries seek ways to enhance environmental and economic resilience and foster societal development, the conference explored these topics through an international lens.



Above: (L) Meagan Trush of Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub with Susan Baka, OWIT -Toronto VP International

Ontario Economic Summit

OWIT-Toronto representatives also attended the [Ontario Economic Summit 2023](#) where leaders from the public and private sectors came together to explore solutions and unlock new opportunities. This premier business event featured engaging keynote speeches, policy debates, interactive sessions, and expert panel discussions that inspired an audience of over 300 attendees to think big and take decisive action to unleash Ontario's vast potential.



Global Affairs
Canada
Affaires mondiales
Canada

Global Affairs Canada's fall Gender and Trade Advisory Group (GTAG)

Updates on free trade agreement negotiations, including the FTAs with Indonesia and ASEAN, were on the agenda of the fall 2023 GTAG meeting, in which OWIT-Toronto participates. An update on CPTPP UK Accession and Canada's upcoming year as CPTPP Commission Chair, taking over from New Zealand, was also provided. Inclusive trade will continue to be a priority for Canada.



Photo: (L-R) Jorge Arrambide, Can-Cham-Mty President, Sandra Shaddick - Consul General at Canadian Consulate General in Monterrey, Mexico, Alma Farias, OWIT-Toronto VP Strategic Projects and Horacio Gomez, Agroalim, Food Cluster of Nuevo Leon Member

Mexico Holiday Reception

On December 1, [The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Monterrey Chapter](#) hosted its holiday reception to celebrate and socialize with members and partners of the business community of Monterrey and other cities of Mexico. OWIT-Toronto was represented on this special occasion event by Alma Farias.



In Memory of a Trail-Blazing Trade Advocate

January 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the passing of JoAnna Townsend, a tireless and inspirational champion of women entrepreneurs and exporters who worked for the Canadian government. In 1994, OWIT-Toronto named its inaugural Export Awards after JoAnna to honour her contributions and to create a lasting tribute to a truly strong and inspirational woman.

Congratulations to OWIT Members on recent Awards



OWIT-Toronto past President and 2012 OWIT Exporter of the Year, Anita Agrawal, CEO, [Best Bargains Jewellery/Jewels 4 Ever](#) has been selected as one of the 2023 top 100 "[most powerful women in Canada](#)."



Shamira Jaffer, CEO of [Signifi Solutions](#) an OWIT Export Award winner in 2017 for Woman Exporter of the Year, clinched the [2023 RBC Innovation Award](#) at the 2023 RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Awards.

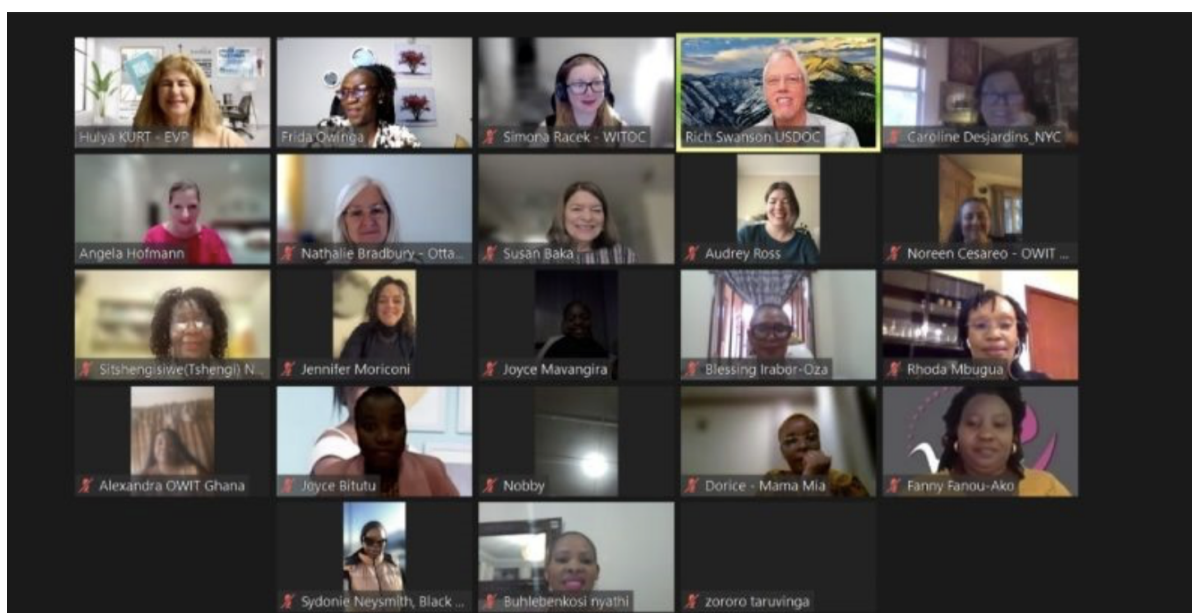


OWIT INTERNATIONAL & OTHER CHAPTER NEWS

New chapters to expand your global network.....

Virtual happy hours to connect with members around the world...

A celebration of OWIT small businesses....



[above] OWIT International Virtual Fall Business Meeting

OWIT-Egypt and OWIT-Tanzania are two new chapters voted in by OWIT International. Recent interest in starting chapters comes from Denmark, Mauritius, Pakistan, Pennsylvania, Chicago, Utah and Dallas. OWIT International’s Fall Business Meeting took place virtually in November and featured Richard Swanson of the US Department of Commerce who talked about DOCs partnership with OWIT: “OWIT is one of the best go-to organizations we’ve had the opportunity to work with. Your portfolio of contacts and mastery and networks are unmatched.”....It is anticipated that the Spring Board Meeting will be held in Europe.

PARTNERS & SPONSORS



Trade Resources

- [Global Bid Opportunity Finder](#)
- [Trade and Gender: United States \(CUSMA\)](#)
- [Trade and Gender: Mexico \(CUSMA\)](#)
- [Trade and Gender: Indonesia](#)
- [Joint Report on Trade and Gender Committee Meeting under the Canada Israel Free Trade Agreement](#)
- [Global Financial Markets](#)
- [Sectors in focus](#)

Don't Miss Out on Any Member Benefits!

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Did you know that as a member of one of OWIT's chapters, you are AUTOMATICALLY part of the OWIT International global network? Your complimentary OWIT International membership adds value to your local chapter membership by offering you added benefits and resources.

[Find out more about membership](#)

[Subscribe for more news and events](#)

Check Out What Our Partners & Sponsors are Doing!

BCBC - Belgian Canadian Business Chamber: www.belgiumconnect.com/

B2BeeMatch: www.b2beematch.com/en/

Bennett Jones: www.bennettjones.com/

Canada Arab Business Council: www.c-abc.org

EDC - Export Development Canada: www.edc.ca/

EP - The Entrepreneurs Point: www.entrepreneurspoint.com/

FITT - Forum for International Trade Training: fittfortrade.com/

Jewels4Ever: www.jewels4ever.ca/

WEKH - Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub: wekh.ca/



OWIT - Toronto Chapter

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Toronto, Ontario M5C 2J8 Canada

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