

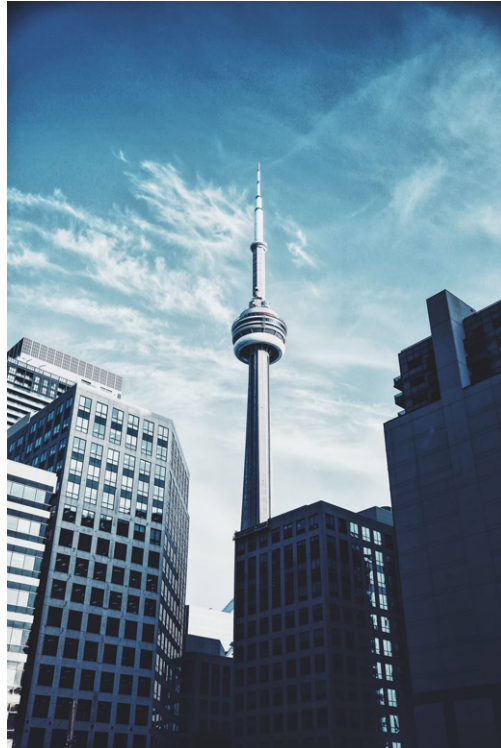


Organization of Women in International Trade-Toronto NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020



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An Update from OWIT Toronto on Coronavirus

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has resulted in a global health crisis posing grave threats to human life, and is having far-reaching consequences of major economic disruptions. In today's world of globalization and interconnectedness, the spread of the virus has gravely impacted international trade, especially with the regional and global value chain linkages. Efforts to control and quarantine the disease have also resulted in restrictions on travel and public gatherings. The spread of the coronavirus has left businesses around the world counting costs.

As we navigate these difficult times, we are wishing everyone good health and well-being.

[Read more.](#)

Women Inspire – Celebrating Women in Business and Leadership





In honor and celebration of this year's International Women's Day, [the Organization of Women in International Trade \(OWIT\) – Toronto Chapter](#) partnered with [Casa Foundation for International Development](#), the [World Trade Center Toronto](#) and the [Toronto Region Board of Trade](#) to host the [Women in Business and Leadership Forum](#). The Forum was focused on supporting women-owned businesses, while empowering women to run businesses through connecting resources (social, capital, human) to ideas, providing a platform to showcase lessons from Canada's businesswomen and leaders who inspire and empower other women.

[Read more.](#)

Conference Postponed to 2021



The EXCErate 2020 Conference, scheduled for Vancouver May 27-29, 2020, and for which OWIT International collaborated to replace its stand-alone conference, will now take place on April 21-23, 2021, at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver. Stay tuned for more details in the coming year.

Webinar to Highlight Blockchain



OWIT International will present a webinar on Blockchain: the Next Big Disruptor is Here on Tuesday, April 7 at 12 noon EST. It will feature Amanda Wilkie, a technology expert and consultant.

[Get the details and registration info.](#)

Freeland Clinches OWIT International Award



Nominated by OWIT-Toronto, Canada's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, has been awarded OWIT International's Woman of the Year honour. She is recognized for her passion and dedication to advance women in global trade and business. Others honoured include: OWIT Tampa Bay as Chapter of the Year and Deanna Clark-Esposito (Clark-Esposito Law Firm, P.C) & Christyna Doege (Port Tampa Bay, the Tampa Port Authority) as Members of the Year. Originally planned to be presented at the GroYourBiz/ OWIT "EXCELerate" Conference in Vancouver in May this year, the Awards presentation will now take place in April, 2021.

[Read more.](#)

Social Media Campaign Launched



Joining a women's
business association
helped me to learn
from other women.
Build connections
And gain valuable insight
Into how to Export
Better.

Anita Agrawal
-CEO
Best Bargains Jewelleru

In commemoration of 2020 International Women's Day (IWD), OWIT-Toronto launched a social media campaign – Women Inspire – to help change perceptions that entrepreneurial success is typically male dominated and "one size fits all". Conceived by Past President Anita Agrawal, the campaign captures the vibrant work and successes of a variety of women entrepreneurs and professionals and will serve to disrupt the status quo, change the narrative and amplify the voices from diverse women entrepreneurs and professionals.

To participate in the campaign, contact OWIT – Toronto on [Twitter](#), or email: info@owit-toronto.ca or on [LinkedIn](#).

[Read more.](#)

CUSMA Passes Both House of Commons & Senate

Legislation implementing CUSMA - the new North American trade agreement - received royal assent in March. Its passage was expedited before Parliament was suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak. Bill C-4 was introduced in January after Canada, the U.S. and Mexico agreed to amendments to the agreement prompted by demands from U.S. House Democrats. The last-minute changes relate to environment and labour provisions.

OWIT-Toronto Provides CUFTA Submission

In February, the Government of Canada launched public consultations to seek the views of Canadians on the possible modernization of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA). The focus of these consultations is to seek feedback on new areas that could be included in a modernized CUFTA, such as chapters on trade in services, trade and gender, investment, and SMEs, as well as potential updates to existing chapters in order to bring the Agreement up-to-date with Canada's most recent agreements. OWIT-Toronto was invited to make a submission, which was completed in March by Maria Marchyshyn, Advisor to the Board, and Susan Baka, VP International, on behalf of OWIT-Toronto.

[Read more.](#)

Students Celebrate IWD with OWIT



The Women Leadership Expo networking fair hosted by the University of Guelph Humber (UofGH), as part of the 2020 International Women's Day(IWD) celebrations, marked another successful collaboration with OWIT-Toronto, where students were offered networking and professional development opportunities. Coming into this year's IWD events, celebrating women's achievements and raising awareness against bias felt more meaningful than ever as solidarity touches new peaks every day. By engaging UofGH students, Helen Hemmingsen, Justine Namara and Ledia Dervishaj of OWIT-Toronto presented our long tradition, global exposure and membership benefits to advance women in the competitive business world.

[Read more.](#)

OWIT Participates in Trade Accelerator Program

Over 50 women entrepreneurs and service providers participated in the very successful first women-only cohort of the World Trade Centre's [Trade Accelerator Program](#) (TAP) in Toronto, launched in the first quarter of the year. TAP helps best prepare businesses for an expansion into international markets. Among the many presentations on resources for Canadian women exporters, OWIT-Toronto's VP International Susan Baka provided an overview of OWIT's offerings and benefits. OWIT-Ottawa's Tamaika Jumelle, National Coordinator, TAP, with [EDC](#), also participated in the kick-off session. Similar women-only cohorts will be rolled out to World Trade Centres in other Canadian cities.

Check Out What our OWIT-TO Partners are Doing!

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

Magnet Export Business Portal: <https://export.magnet.today/>

BCCTC - British Chamber of Commerce: <http://bcctc.ca/>

EDC - Export Development Canada: <https://www.edc.ca/>

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

WEKH - Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub: <https://wekh.ca/>

JOIN OWIT-TORONTO TODAY!



Membership Benefits:

[Networking](#)

