



**Dear friends of the Empire Club of Canada,**

As our 2023-2024 season comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our vibrant community, for your unwavering support. Thank you for showing up, for challenging us, giving us ideas and constantly pushing us to do better. You truly are the driving force behind our mission to facilitate meaningful connections and productive dialogue on diverse topics that impact Canadians and the world.

Two years ago, I became Chair of the Board of Directors of the Empire Club of Canada. It was **one of the best decisions** of my life, as it gave me the opportunity to serve and help advance the mission of this iconic institution.

The key themes that stood out for me throughout the 67-odd events that I've had the pleasure to host at the Club since July 2022 are: **the incredible country that we live in** and the enduring importance and relevance of the Empire Club, 120 years after its inception.

We have the right ingredients in Canada:

- a diverse and inclusive society that lives up to its values
- an excellent business card – people trust working with us, they trust our products and services
- an increasing flow of talent from around the world
- and – the most important advantage of them all – the 41 million Canadians who put their skills and energy to the service of Canada, bettering us day after day



This is our country and **we should be proud of it!**

However, our times are not without challenge. Polarization, economic instability, climate change, technological and demographic shifts are just some of our day-to-day realities. We have a responsibility and a moral duty to work as one to rise to the moment and build the best version of ourselves that we can be. And isn't dialogue the best way to advance a society, ensure a legacy of informed decision-making, social responsibility and inclusive progress, for generations to come?

## Our mission, our driving force

The Empire Club is more relevant and more necessary than ever.

With each event and each conversation, we bring you thought-provoking speakers to **make sense of the complexity we live in**. From premiers to ministers, business, cultural and social leaders, researchers and experts – we are here to inform, inspire and derisk your decisions.

- Over 25,000 **people attended our virtual and in-person events** over the past two years.
- We remained committed to **diversity, equity, quality and access, both on stage and in front of it** – by ensuring we had diverse speakers and topics, and also by making our virtual events complimentary with the support of our extraordinary sponsors.
- We extended the Club's reach to better include the **young generation**. For each event, we've had at least one sponsored table for young leaders.
- We continued recording all speeches delivered on our stage and made them available to the public at no cost through the Empire Club Foundation.



## A new chapter

As I pass on the torch, I am confident that the best is yet to come. I am proud to announce Kent Emerson's appointment as CEO of the Empire Club of Canada. Kent is the first CEO in the Club's 120-year history, bringing extensive experience, a collaborative approach and strong leadership skills.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our past and present Board Directors for their invaluable contributions in shaping our Club into the exceptional institution it is today. I would also like to thank our dedicated staff—Sarah, Jehan, Maggie, Harsh, and Kent— none of this would be possible without you.

The Empire Club of Canada is a non-profit organization and, as always, I would like to recognize our **sponsors**, who generously support us.



Open, constructive and respectful debates are the **cornerstone of a healthy democracy** and **the way forward**. The Club is uniquely positioned to continue to act as the key enabler and a platform of choice for conversations that matter for Canadians. We've done it for 120 years, and we will continue to do it in the future.

It has been **an honour and a privilege to serve**.



Long live the Empire Club of Canada!

Sal Rabbani,  
Chair of the Board of Directors, Empire Club of Canada (2022 – 2024)