

CCDI expands CEO Sartaj Sarkaria's title to President and CEO, reinforcing commitment to inclusion amid sector uncertainty

National charity strengthens leadership as organizations navigate shifting workplace equity landscape

TORONTO, ON – December 2, 2025 – The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) announced today that its Board of Directors has expanded CEO Sartaj Sarkaria's title to President and CEO, effective immediately. Sarkaria, who has served as CEO since June 2025, now holds the dual title as CCDI strengthens its leadership to meet the evolving needs of Canadian workplaces.

The decision comes at a pivotal moment for the diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility sector. While some organizations have scaled back their commitments in response to external pressures, CCDI is reinforcing its resolve. The expanded title signals the organization's maturity, strategic growth, and commitment to providing steady leadership for its network of almost 700 Employer Partners across Canada.

"This decision reflects our confidence in Sartaj's vision and our organization's readiness for the next chapter," said Marni Panas, Board President of CCDI. "At a time when clarity and courage matter most, we're strengthening our leadership structure to ensure CCDI remains a trusted, stable partner for organizations committed to building truly inclusive workplaces. Sartaj's leadership embodies the resilience and strategic focus this moment demands."

Since joining CCDI, Sarkaria has deepened relationships with Employer Partners, advanced the organization's thought leadership through national media appearances on a variety of topics including workplace accommodations and advancing diversity in decision-making roles. Through this work, she has positioned CCDI as a voice of stability in an uncertain landscape. The President and CEO title aligns CCDI with governance best practices in the nonprofit sector and reinforces the distinction between Board oversight and executive leadership.

"Inclusion has never been optional. It's essential to how we build workplaces and communities where everyone can thrive," said Sartaj Sarkaria, President and CEO of CCDI. "This is a moment to lead with clarity, evidence, and unwavering commitment to the work. I'm honoured to continue guiding CCDI as we support organizations navigating complexity and staying true to their values."

The leadership transition positions CCDI for an ambitious new phase of growth and impact as the organization prepares to launch its next strategic direction in 2026.

About the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) is a national charity established in 2013 with the mandate of building a more inclusive Canada. CCDI offers a comprehensive suite of bilingual services including webinars and conferences, communities of practice events, research, and resources on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in the workplace, the Canadian Certified Inclusion Professionals (CCIP) certification, the See Different youth education and ambassador programs, and networking opportunities throughout the year. CCDI is committed to educating workplaces, schools and communities on DEIA and to shape the national dialogue towards a more equitable and just society for all. Learn more at ccdi.ca.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Joseph Levesque
Director, Communications
+1 (416) 968-6520, ext. 159
communications@ccdi.ca