For more than 50 years, Canadians have trusted CDIC to protect their savings. In more recent times, as the global financial system evolves, they also expect to have prompt access to their money following a member institution failure, and some choice in how they are reimbursed. This shift in expectations, coupled with rapid advances in technology, means CDIC must transform itself along with its environment, and our Board must also evolve to keep pace with this change. 2018/2019 was a year of significant change and renewal at CDIC. This past year, the Board of Directors underwent a “changing of the guard.” CDIC’s Board is unique in many respects. It comprises five ex officio members who are senior figures in the Government of Canada. These public sector members are matched with six private sector members, including myself as Chair.

This year, five new private sector Directors were appointed to our Board and I am delighted by their depth of experience, talent, diversity and ambition. I wish to take this opportunity to welcome each of these new Directors.

One new Director, Johanne Charbonneau, left the Board shortly after the fiscal year end, and we are grateful for her contribution to our discussions. Ms. Charbonneau was replaced by J. Martin Castonguay.

- Martin Castonguay is a Chartered Professional Accountant and auditor.
- Linda Caty is a lawyer and administrator.
- David Dominy is the CEO of a private financial services firm.
- Andrew Kriegler is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.
- Wendy Millar has held executive leadership roles in the financial sector.

Our new Board members bring a wealth of private sector and governance expertise that will help us remain flexible and responsive to new economic and environmental challenges. The full roster of Board members is available in the governance section of the Annual Report. This past year CDIC undertook, and is now implementing, several initiatives to support our focus on enhanced governance.

More than ever, Canadians recognize CDIC as a stable force that protects and secures their deposits. The peace of mind we provide is part of our departing private sector Directors’ legacy. I would like to thank Shelley Tratch, Éric Pronovost, George Burger, Angela Tu Weissenerberger and Susan Hicks for their years of service and contribution to CDIC and the financial system. CDIC benefited greatly from their ongoing stewardship in the tumultuous years during and following the global financial crisis.

On the theme of long-time service, I would also like to express the Board’s thanks to Michèle Bourque and Claudia Morrow, who each retired this past year. Ms. Bourque spent more than 25 years at CDIC, eight years as CEO. Ms. Morrow joined CDIC in 1995 and served in various roles, including as Corporate Secretary.

I would also like to express the Board’s gratitude to Dean A. Cosman, who served as President and CEO on an interim basis during the CEO recruitment process, for his outstanding service and leadership throughout this period of transition. He has now taken on the role of Executive Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer.
This appointment highlights the Corporation’s renewed focus on Enterprise Risk Management.

In November, the Board welcomed Peter D. Routledge as CDIC’s new President and CEO. Mr. Routledge brings a wealth of financial sector expertise to this role, both from the private and public sectors. The Board has already established a strong relationship with Mr. Routledge and values his commitment to transparency, partnership and effective challenge.

We know that it is essential to keep pace with our changing risk environment. This year, we worked to enhance our understanding of the innovative and effective use of CDIC’s toolkit to protect depositors, minimize our risk of loss and promote financial stability. This included overviews of CDIC’s objects and the use of tabletop exercises to delineate our leadership role.

Through these exercises, the Board will continue to enhance its approach to risk evaluation and oversight. This commitment is reflected in our renewed governance and committee structure. Following a full review in the last year, we moved to establish a new Risk Committee to help us keep pace with our evolving risk environment. The Board Committee Charters and Board Charter have been refreshed and amended accordingly.

The Board’s intention is to continue to “up the game” to help CDIC meet the expectations of depositors and the public in a manner consistent with our mandate, and to strive to be best in class in the world.

Robert O. Sanderson