

OWIT-Ottawa Newsletter

Early Winter Edition, Vol. 6

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OWIT International Webinars

For more details on the webinar program of OWIT International, [visit them online](#).

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Greetings!

We've been busy and we know you have been too!

With so many discussions about North American trade, trade with Europe and Ottawa's brisk calendar of events, there has been a lot to take in.

OWIT-Ottawa has been particularly active in NAFTA discussions taking place at the House of Commons and the Senate, while our OWIT International colleagues have been busy at the WTO.

We warmly welcome you to participate in our upcoming events. We have a great panel discussion lined up for November 15th on social media, followed by the OWIT-Ottawa holiday social on November 23rd with special guest, Dr. Ailish Campbell. We also invite you to save the date for our event at Heist Jewellery in February 2018.



We look forward to seeing you soon - bring your colleagues, friends and family along for some great networking and learning opportunities.

All our best,

OWIT-Ottawa Appears at Standing Committee on International Trade



Alma Farias, left, with Ainsley Butler at the House of Commons

On behalf of OWIT International, OWIT-Toronto Past President Alma Farias and OWIT-Ottawa board member Ainsley Butler, appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade on October 2, 2017 to provide input on the NAFTA renegotiation and modernization.

OWIT International argued that improving access for SMEs, simplifying customs procedures, facilitating cross-border business travel are key issues. OWIT strongly supports Canada's leadership on gender rights and capacity-building initiatives since these are key issues for the future of North American trade. [Minutes of the committee proceedings are online.](#)

OWIT-Ottawa Participates in Open Caucus about NAFTA Negotiations



On October 18, 2017, OWIT-Ottawa board members Alexandra Logvin and Natalie Bradbury attended the Senate of Canada's open caucus on NAFTA modernization. The discussion revolved around NAFTA

negotiations, including American proposals on dispute resolution mechanisms and domestic policies. Discussions also focused on NAFTA's impact on industry sectors in Canada, and the Canadian agenda, interests, and concerns such as intellectual property, e-commerce, agriculture, investor-state and state-to-state dispute resolution, subsidies, labour, and environment. Key questions raised during open caucus included:

- What would Canada be prepared to sacrifice, if anything, to keep NAFTA alive yet modernized?

- Does the U.S. approach to NAFTA signal the beginning of disengagement from the international trade system?

The discussion will continue in the next rounds of the caucus. Stay tuned!

Upcoming OWIT-Ottawa Events

Social Media for Your Business @ Fasken, November 15, 5:30pm-7:30pm



OWIT-Ottawa and Ottawa's Connecting Women invite you to sharpen your social media skills on November 15th at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP.

A panel discussion will address strategies and best practices for social media, featuring Jennifer Walker, a business and media consultant, Vivyen Du and Erin Meisner from Sun Life Financial and Anastasia Semenova, OWIT-Ottawa board member and senior associate at Gowling WLG.

This is a **FREE** event for **OWIT-Ottawa members**. Non-members are welcome to join us. [Registration and tickets are now available](#). Refreshments and light snacks will be served.

OWIT-Ottawa Holiday Social with Dr. Ailish Campbell, Canada's Chief Trade Commissioner @ Gowling WLG on November 23, 5:30pm-8:30pm



You are invited to the OWIT-Ottawa holiday social with special guest, Dr. Ailish Campbell.

Ailish will discuss current issues in international trade from her unique perspective as Chief Trade Commissioner of Canada and Assistant Deputy Minister, International Business Development at Global Affairs Canada.

In previous years, this event has provided a lovely blend of insights from leading trade professionals, networking and holiday cheer. This is a catered event with appetizers, wine and beverages.

This is a great opportunity for friends, colleagues and trade professionals from across the Ottawa area to get

together. [Don't miss out, get your ticket now!](#) A discount on 2018 OWIT-Ottawa memberships is also on offer.

Save the Date!

Rock Solid: The fascinating jewellery supply chain @ Heist Jewellery, February 1, 2018, 6:00pm-8:00pm



OWIT-Ottawa members and friends are invited to learn about the jewellery industry and the global supply chain of precious metals and minerals on Thursday, February 1st, 2018 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at [Heist Jewellery](#), 343 Richmond Rd, Ottawa

Please check our website for more details about each event: <http://www.owit-ottawa.ca/>

Interested in sponsoring an event? Please contact us, we'd love to hear from your organization.

FACES OF TRADE: OWIT International profiles members and their contributions to international trade

Susan Baka, President, Bay Communications & Marketing and OWIT-Toronto board member presented Faces of Trade at the WTO Public Forum on September 28, 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Faces of Trade initiative highlights the inclusion of women and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in global trade.



The initiative included the profile of current member, Megan Malone, past member Katherine McGregor and several other members of OWIT around the

world.

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