

A Conversation with Ingrid Stefancic, FCIS

Ingrid is the Quebec Branch Chair and National Board Member for ICSA Canada, and Vice-President, Corporate and Legal Services, and Corporate Secretary at Logistec Corporation



ICSA Canada: How did you first become involved with ICSA Canada?

Ingrid Stefancic: I was 10 years into my private practice career when I decided to make a move and started up the law department at Logistec. In 2005 I became the president of the Quebec Association of Secretaries and General Counsel when I was approached by Janis Riven, then current President of ICSA Canada, to see if I was interested in applying for ICSA membership. Given my experience and background, I was admitted as a Fellow of ICSA Canada and a member of the Quebec Council in 2006. I became its President in 2013, and I now sit on the National Board, the Education Committee, and the Continuing Professional Development Committee.

ICSA: What do you value most about your membership?

I. Stefancic: The high level of expertise, breadth, and depth of the membership. There is a rigorous admissions process, whether through the education program or through the mature entry process, the latter being my path. The professional designation is recognized and respected worldwide and the network I have built is both very interesting and helpful.

ICSA: What do you think is the most important quality a Chartered Secretary can bring to a business?

I. Stefancic: The depth of the knowledge that a Chartered Secretary brings, from risk management to working with the finance department or CFO, is a level of expertise that is difficult to find elsewhere. Our relationship-building skills are important as we work with different departments and at various levels to help the Board achieve its goals.

ICSA: In your opinion, what is the most valued quality a Chartered Secretary can possess?

I. Stefancic: Integrity, as with any professional body. The credentials bring independence, credibility, and relevance to an organization's corporate governance. The level of expertise expected from a Chartered Secretary encompasses a level of professionalism that goes far beyond the traditional "Corporate Secretarial" minute-taking role.

ICSA: What kinds of trends are you seeing that are making you hopeful for the future of the profession?

I. Stefancic: Corporate Governance continues to become more and more important and people are looking for guidance. It's a question of values; it's important that the people at the board level (the tone at the top) have good values and that it trickles down through the whole organization. Once again, I come back to integrity, which is crucial in giving credibility to the organization.

ICSA: Any words of wisdom for students and new members?

I. Stefancic: Candidates - this is not an easy program, it's a Master's Level degree. I strongly encourage you to persevere. The practical knowledge you get in the program will be helpful throughout your career, no matter what line of work you are in.

New members – get involved and contribute! With membership, you get from it what you put in. The Branches are always looking for positive members looking to connect with their peers through networking and education.

ICSA: How has the designation increased your capacity as a leader?

I. Stefancic: It added a level of credibility and professionalism for me: the designation is recognized worldwide. It gives you an excellent opportunity to connect with your peers and it's a great feather to add to your cap.

ICSA: What was the moment you realized the potential of your FCIS designation?

I. Stefancic: The moment when my Logistec Chairman, a retired corporate and securities lawyer, noticed the FCIS in my email signature the same day I added it. He asked me more about it and he thought it was wonderful that the unique and crucial role was being recognized. He congratulated me and it really meant something coming from a lawyer who can fully appreciate the weight of the title.



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RSVP to info@icsacanada.org by Friday, November 13th.