

# Looking Ahead



2024 Senior Council (Top, from left to right: John A. Sabo, Karen Owen, Jim Hadjiyianni, Sonia Gallo, and Len Scavuzzo. Bottom, from left to right: Khusen Shukurov, Perry Arzumanian, Belinda Yu, Janet Clarke, and Ken Voong).

In 2024, OECM will forge ahead, upholding our position as a leader and visionary in collaborative strategic sourcing. We will continue to facilitate collaboration amongst and between our customers in the education, municipal, health, broader public sectors and not-for-profit communities, responding to ever-increasing service pressures and demands on resources by building an effective, efficient and sustainable supply management system for Ontario and beyond.

We plan to develop and implement a new dedicated Growth Strategy, focusing on diversification, regionality, collaboration, partnerships and engagement, speed-to-market, subject matter expertise, and professional development, to support and enhance OECM's trajectory of business growth and transformation.

We continue to work to transform OECM's solid sourcing practice into a recognized *Centre of Excellence* for collaborative supply management innovation. We're doing this by incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations into our procurement process, increasing the use of Generative AI and other collaborative technology tools, and introducing innovative value-based practices to expedite and increase access to more relevant, high-quality, priority products and services. We will continue to collaborate with Supply Ontario and government partners to explore opportunities for streamlining procurement approaches and ensuring compliance. We will continue to prioritize customer-centric initiatives that enhance the customer experience as we simultaneously boost opportunities for supplier collaboration.

As part of our Growth Strategy, in 2024, we will place greater emphasis on business diversification and growth opportunities, particularly within the non-education sector, grow our strategic partnerships across government and the broader public sector, take further action to foster and maintain respectful relationships with Indigenous and Métis communities, and continue with the implementation of our ESG strategy. We look forward to hosting our 3rd Ontario Leadership & Collaboration Sector Symposium in February 2024 and anticipate this event to be deeply informative and inspirational to the senior sector leaders who have already confirmed their attendance.

We continue to keep a firm eye on initiatives that support our commitments to enhance sustainability practices, diversity and inclusion, and continued learning and professional development opportunities for our staff. OECM's People Strategy remains a key focus for 2024, as ultimately, it is our team members – those who are doing the work every day to realize and promote the value of collaborative strategic sourcing – who play a pivotal role in the preservation of our ongoing success.