Rotman School of Management
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Business Case: Canadian Infrastructure Leadership Academy

The Canadian Infrastructure Leadership Academy (CILA) is a blended (in-person and virtual) program designed to enhance management expertise, strategic thinking, and leadership capability amongst the leaders of major projects. Unlike an MBA, it is built only for this audience and is practice-based.

CILA brings together public and private sector leaders with 10-15 years of experience working in a wide variety of major project sectors, including civil and social infrastructure, national defence, information technology and natural resources. The richness of the learning environment comes from the diversity of the cohort.

For the Individual: Gain the skills and networks needed to take the next step in your career

Investing in this program enables the rising leaders of the most ambitious, complex major projects in Canada to accelerate career growth, improve project outcomes, strengthen collaboration, and lead with confidence in an era of unprecedented infrastructure investment.

Key Benefits:

- **Career Advancement:** Prepares participants with the leadership, business and political acumen to lead major projects across the public and private sectors, supported by a capstone project and ongoing mentorship from experienced infrastructure leaders
- **Future-Ready Skills:** Exposure to evidence-based strategies to successfully lead temporary project organizations, and incorporate innovation, data and AI into major project management, taught through Canadian case studies, practitioner panels and site visits
- **Stronger Partner Relationships:** Improved communication across sectors, negotiation, and risk management confidence, plus a national network of senior leaders across asset classes
- **Credential Value:** Rotman + School of Cities affiliation strengthens professional credibility

For the Organization: Cultivate emerging leaders with the capabilities and acumen to successfully deliver the most complex projects

The program is a strategic investment in risk management by building the leadership capabilities and business acumen of the next generation of project leaders.

Key Benefits:

- **Cost Management**: Leaders are fluent in commercial leadership, procurement, and governance
- **Crisis Leadership:** Deepen competency in political acumen and public communication
- **Capability Expansion:** Strength in advanced planning, client-owner relationships, and emerging areas (e.g. data driven leadership, AI)
- **Leadership Pipeline:** Prepares future leaders and partners, and connects them with peers across Canada, not only their home region
- **Retention:** Demonstrates commitment to employee development and reduces turnover

Business Impact:

- **Improved project performance**: Leaders are better equipped to reduce delays and cost overruns through stronger procurement and commercial decisions, clearer governance, earlier conflict resolution, and capstone work on a real project challenge
- **Increased trust:** Stronger relationships across public and private sectors
- **Reputation investment:** Stronger standing through transparent governance practices
- **Strategic alignment:** Readiness for a sector facing unprecedented infrastructure investment

Conclusion

This program delivers strong ROI by combining commercial leadership, governance and crisis leadership training with a capstone, mentorship, and a national cross-sector network. Time away is limited to nine in-person days over six months. Early bird fee: $21,880 CAD + HST until November 30, 2026.