

Thomas Paul d'Aquino

B.A., J.D., LL.M., LL.D.



Thomas d'Aquino is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, corporate director, author and educator. He is Chairman of Thomas d'Aquino Capital and Chairman and Chief Executive of Intercounsel ^{Ltd.}, a private venture development and strategic consulting company which he founded in the 1970s.

Mr. d'Aquino has extensive experience as a corporate director. He serves on the Board of Directors of Calgary-based Coril Holdings Ltd. He also is Chairman of the National Gallery of Canada Foundation. Until January 2015, Mr. d'Aquino served as the Lead Director of Canada's largest technology company, Montreal-based CGI Group Inc. He also has served as a Director of Manulife Financial Corporation and his involvement in the financial services sector has included experience on the advisory boards of investment banks Schroders and Lazard.

Mr. d'Aquino's business career spans over four decades. From 1972 to 1975, he worked with an international management consulting firm in London and Paris. He started his own business in 1976 winning strategic consulting mandates from a number of leading companies in Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. From 1981 to 2009, he served as Chief Executive, President and member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE), an organization composed of the chief executives of 150 of the country's leading enterprises and pre-eminent entrepreneurs. Mr. d'Aquino assumed leadership of the Council in its formative stages when it was known as the Business Council on National Issues. Upon his retirement from the CCCE as of December 31, 2009, member companies accounted for \$850 billion in annual revenues, \$4.5 trillion in assets, and were responsible for the majority of Canada's private sector exports, investment and training. In recognition of "his exemplary leadership", he was named by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives Board of Directors, a Distinguished Lifetime Member. (As of January 2016, the Canadian Council of Chief Executives has been renamed the Business Council of Canada.)

Mr. d'Aquino currently is Co-Chair of the North American Forum, the continent's pre-eminent trilateral institution dedicated to advancing Canada, United States and Mexico cooperation in economic, trade, energy, environmental and security matters. He also is Co-Chair of the Canada-Mexico Leadership Group, a bilateral group of private sector decision-makers dedicated to advancing deeper cooperation between Canada and Mexico. Mr. d'Aquino has served as Co-Chair of the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum which met in Toronto in 2012 and Melbourne in 2014. The Forum convenes leaders from business, government, academe and the not-for-profit sectors to foster Australia-Canada cooperation in political, economic and security affairs.

Mr. d'Aquino serves as a member of an international advisory group assisting The Vatican with the Sports in the Service of Humanity Summit being convened by Pope Francis in 2016.

In 2012, Mr. d'Aquino co-chaired a *Canada Strategy for Emerging Markets* project sponsored by the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, which produced an influential report titled "*Winning in a Changing World: Canada and Emerging Markets*". He is associated with two of Canada's leading academic institutions: as Distinguished Visiting Professor, Global Business and Public Policy Strategies at Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs; and as Honorary Professor at Western University's Ivey Business School.

Earlier in his career, Mr. d'Aquino served as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Canada and as Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Ottawa lecturing on the law of international trade and global business transactions. He also worked with two of Canada's leading law firms, as Special Counsel and Senior Counsel. He is acknowledged as one of the private sector leaders in advancing the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement. Mr. d'Aquino organized the first-ever *APEC CEO Summit* held in Vancouver in 1997 and served as Co-Chairman. As head of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, he led the first Canadian CEO Missions to China and India and remains active in Asia Pacific affairs.

Born in Trail, British Columbia and raised and educated in nearby Nelson, Mr. d'Aquino attended the Universities of British Columbia, Queen's and London (University College and the London School of Economics). He holds B.A., J.D. (LL.B.), and LL.M. degrees, and an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from Queen's, Wilfrid Laurier and Western Universities.

He is the author of numerous publications including the influential book *Northern Edge: How Canadians Can Triumph in the Global Economy*. He is active on social media and a frequent speaker on platforms in Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America. Mr. d'Aquino has addressed audiences in forty countries and in over one hundred cities worldwide.

Mr. d'Aquino is the recipient of numerous honours and awards including The Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals for service to Canada. He and his wife Susan Peterson d'Aquino live in the Heritage Village of Rockcliffe Park in Ottawa. Together they co-chair the *Thomas d'Aquino and Susan Peterson d'Aquino Foundation for Business Leadership, Public Policy Innovation and Excellence in the Arts*.

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