



Wendy Harris, CPA, CA
President and Chief Executive Officer, CESO

CESO (Canadian Executive Services Organization) is a leading economic development organization dedicated to sustainably reducing poverty and fostering economic growth in Canada and around the world. CESO is recognized for the expertise of its almost 1,000 Volunteer Advisors who are highly-skilled, senior-level professionals from the public and private sector, who share their skills and knowledge to empower others and drive economic and social change.

Wendy Harris joined CESO in 2009 as Chief Financial Officer in a time of financial and programmatic uncertainty and instability. Ms. Harris proficiently turned the organization around, stabilizing operations and strengthening CESO's brand as a leader in economic development, community capacity-building, and governance. In so doing, she was instrumental in steering the organization into a period of substantial growth and expansion.

Ms. Harris was appointed Chief Executive Officer of CESO in 2011, leading the organization with a renewed market focus on government relations and corporate fundraising.

The role of President and CEO has meant intimate involvement with the board of directors of a significant NGO, instituting by-laws, developing a sound governance structure, establishing new committees including governance and nominations and finance and audit. In addition, as distinct from CESO's many internal staff initiatives, Ms. Harris has led the board in major initiatives to increase recognition by government (provincial, national, and international) and by corporate Canada, encouraging strong board participation in these very successful efforts.

Prior to her roles with CESO, Ms. Harris held senior audit and regulatory positions with Deloitte, and provided advisory services to small- and medium-sized businesses. In addition to her CPA and CA designations, she also earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) from the University of Windsor, and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Queen's University.

Ms. Harris is a passionate equestrian, having participated in hunter jumper shows for many years while growing up in the Kingston area.