

➤ **Valuable tips on how** to become the “Ultimate Leader” are provided in “25 Skills Every Leader Needs Now” [*Canadian Business*. 89 (9):23-35. August, 2016. www.canadianbusiness.com.] Based upon interviews of highly accomplished Canadians the strategies described are important lessons—not taught in the classroom—that will facilitate personal and career success. A selection of these include: making tough calls, how to rally the troops, effective multi- and mono-tasking, mastering your biorhythms, how to stay stoked, mastering new skills, cultivating creativity, grooming a successor, taking a break, mastering the power lunch and staying cool under pressure.

➤ **Profiles of Canadian people,** companies, and technologies that are taking unconventional approaches to solving the energy industry’s biggest problems are provided in Alberta Oil’s article “Canada’s Top Energy Innovators” [11(10):19-37. April, 2016. www.albertaoilmagazine.com]. Innovations in product development, the environment, exploration and development, strategy and operations, and finance are discussed by the Canadian energy industry innovation champions.

➤ **Researched by Deborah Aarts,** Andrea McDonald and Mai Nguyen the special Canadian Business report “Canada’s Fastest Growing Companies” [89(10/11):33-97. October, 2016] provides in the authors words “risk-taking, trailblazing, innovating, job-creating, amazing businesses whose soaring sales and big ambitions are exactly what the Canadian economy needs today...this is what entrepreneurial success looks like. In-depth profiles of many of these new businesses are provided as well as a complete ranking of Canada’s 500 fastest revenue growing companies. Leading the list is Canada Drives (5-year revenue growth of 12,686%), an online portal that facilitates auto financing for consumers; followed by RMS Builders, who construct industrial, commercial and multi-family residential structures; and Buyatab Online, who develops software that helps merchants sell online gift cards.

First among Canada’s fastest growing revenue companies is Canada Drives, an online auto financing portal

➤ **The changing diverse face** of the Canadian population has made it imperative for Canadian companies to transition to diverse work environments, ethnic markets, and new ways of managing business. Baisakhi Roy in “The Evolution of Canadian Business” [*Canadian Immigrant*. 13(10):8-12.

Biz-tech Report



by **Terrance Malkinson**



October, 2016. www.canadianimmigrant.ca] discusses this important topic and builds the business case for diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

➤ **The costs of regular** professional vision-care can be expensive and often is not, or is only partially covered by insurance benefits. Jann Lee in “The Poor Optics of Employee Vision Coverage” [Benefits Canada. 40(9):14-19. October, 2016. www.benefitscanada.com] discusses important issues that are of concern to many Canadian workers. The author also provides information on some innovative solutions that are being implemented by employers and plan providers to provide a better benefit value to the consumer. The uniqueness of technology—now in the workplace—demands an increasing emphasis on the importance of vision care.

➤ **Profiles of over thirty** Canadian prodigies, technology wizards, public servants, financiers and inventors who are seen as the next generation of Canadian business leaders and their success stories are provided in the *Canadian Business* article “Change Agents 2016” [89(12):29-44. November, 2016].

➤ **Strategic use of social media** is helping Canadian grocers make informed marketing decisions, and personalizing messages to cultivate deeper relationships with consumers at a local level. Ken Mark in “Understanding Today’s Social Grocery Shopper” [*Canadian Retailer*. 26(3):12-14. Summer, 2016. www.retailcouncil.org] discusses

the power of this tool to connect to today’s grocery shopper and develop a relationship with consumers at a local level.

➤ **The focus of the** September-October, 2016 issue of *ReNew Canada* [13(5). www.renewcanada.net] is on “Canadian Developments for Reaching Net Zero: Improving Carbon Emissions in Our Built Environment”. A number of articles on Canadian advances in this important area are provided. These include new interprovincial power grids, new building construction techniques, improving industry efficiency, the role of taxation, and asset recycling programs to name but a few.

➤ **The stethoscope reached** its 200th anniversary in 2016. But will the iconic device become obsolete in our digital age? As stated in a CBC news post by Kas Roussy [October 26, 2016] “It’s one of the top inventions in medical history.” A modest 19th-century Parisian doctor, Dr. René Laennec is credited for having invented the stethoscope in 1816. Reluctant to press his ear to the chest of a female patient, he improvised, rolling up a notebook into a tight cylinder putting one end on his patient’s chest and the other to his ear.” And he heard, lub-dub sounds of the heart,” says medical historian Dr. Jacalyn Duffin. The stethoscope resulted in permanent changes in patient treatment.

Small vision corrections can make a huge difference in work performance

The standard two-eared rubber-tubing version was developed in the 1850s—decades after Laennec’s death. But recently in a 2014 editorial, Dr. Sanjiv Kaul of Oregon Health and Science University asked, “Is it time to get rid of the antiquated stethoscope? Modern pocket ultrasound devices provide high-quality diagnostic images”, he wrote. adding that “they are easier to use and more accurate.” While the newer devices are not yet standard in Canadian hospitals, some emergency room, ICU and internal medicine physicians are being trained to use them. They are increasingly popular in the U.S. as medical students are introduced to their use in school. ■

About the Author

Terrance Malkinson is a communications specialist, business analyst and futurist. His career path includes technical supervisor and medical researcher at the University of Calgary, business proposal manager for the General Electric Company, and research administrator with the School of Health and Public Safety at SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary. He is currently an international correspondent for IEEE-USA *Today’s Engineer*, contributing editor for *IEEE Canadian Review*, and a member of the editorial advisory board of *IEEE The Institute*. He was Vice-Chair of the IEEE-USA Communications Committee (2004-2010), and editor-in-chief of *IEEE-USA Today’s Engineer Digest* (2004-2008). He was an elected Governor of the IEEE Engineering Management Society as well as past editor of *IEEE Engineering Management*. He is the author of more than 550 earned publications, and an accomplished triathlete. malkinst@telus.net