

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, June 25th 2019



The Royal Bank of Canada crowned the winner of the global LGBT+ Leadership Contest RAHM for the first time in North America



- **Salar Shoaiiby won the fourth RAHM Contest**
- **First event outside of Europe and the first one in North America**
- **Next contest on June 28th in Dublin (hosted by Google)**

RAHM
The Global LGBT+
Leadership Community

On Saturday, June 22nd, the fourth edition of RAHM, The Global LGBT+ Leadership Community, took place in Toronto. Host was the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). 49 participants took part in the event, which for the first time ever was organised outside of Europe and the winner is Salar Shoaiiby.

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RBC recognises the importance of such a contest and thus decided to host the Global LGBT+ Leadership Contest. **Lawrence Spicer**, Vice President Audit, Personal & Commercial Banking at RBC, justifies it as follows: „It’s vitally important that young LGBT+ executives are encouraged to not only stay true to themselves and act as authentic leaders, but also to actively seek to inspire others through their words and actions, and to accelerate change in their organizations. Initiatives like RAHM play a critical role as we look to seek out and develop the next generation of LGBT+ leaders.“

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RAHM brings together the most outstanding present and future LGBT+ leaders in the world. 49 participants from nearly 100 applicants were invited to take part in the contest at the RBC WaterPark Place. During the day they had to convince a qualified jury of experts among other persons, the jury included: **Helen Kennedy**, Executive Director at Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, **Bill Pallett**, President at WJ PALLETT & ASSOCIATESAME and Chair of the Board of Directors at Canadian Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC), **Kimberley Messer**, Business Development Leader, North America at IBM Canada, **Nicolino Frate**, Director General, Communications Branch at Shared Services Canada – Government of Canada, and **Lenore MacAdam**, Inclusion Lead at Deloitte. Special guest during the contest was Olympic Winner **Caroline Ouellette**. She is a retired professional ice hockey player.

RAHM

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During the one-day contest the candidates went through three different group challenges to prove and develop their leadership skills. They had to demonstrate their skills and abilities in creative and strategic thinking, crucial time management, role play and debating.

More information:
rahm.ceo
[RAHM video](#)

After each group task points were distributed through a unique crowd-ranking system including all the participants to determine the top 5. They then had to face individual interviews with the jury to convince them one last time. In the end **Salar Shoaiiby** was crowned the winner of the fourth RAHM contest. He is happy about the profit and explains: „To say that RAHM is an amazing experience would be an UNDERSTATEMENT. The opportunity to collaborate with brilliant LGBTQIA+ leaders from around the world has been life changing. The story telling, the teamwork and the learnings I have experienced this weekend are memories I will take with me moving forward professionally and personally. I am so humbled by this experience and will forever be grateful“.

UHLALA Group

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In addition to the contest, various side events took place turning the RAHM Contest into a three days experience for the participants. Starting with a get-together, where the contestants met for the first time the evening before the contest, up to the Pride Parade visit on Sunday the day after.

RAHM Contest 2019 also takes place in Dublin on June 28th (hosted by Google) and Berlin on July 26th (hosted by the Commerzbank). The application for the Berlin Contest ends on July 15th 2019. More information on the RAHM website.

More information about RAHM are available here:

<https://rahm.ceo/>

The meaning of LGBT+

LGBT+ is the abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, as well as those whose sexual orientation or gender does not fall under the cisgender and heterosexual identities.

RAHM and UHLALA Group

RAHM is a global LGBT+ Leadership Community. We bring together passionate leaders who are keen on growing and sharing their expertise with each other, ultimately becoming role-models who will inspire future generations of LGBT+ leaders.

The UHLALA Group is a leading LGBT+ social business, with its brands and projects such as RAHM, STICKS & STONES, UNICORNS IN TECH or PANDA. Since 2009, the UHLALA Group stands for the networking, further education and empowerment of LGBT+ People in their working life and connects them with LGBT+ friendly companies and organisations.

The UHLALA Group's goal is to reach equal chances and opportunities for LGBT+ People in the working world. www.uhlala.com