

Community members had a rare opportunity to hear from female industry leaders at the A.R.S. *Breaking Barriers to Success: A Female Leader's Perspective* event on Wednesday, June 18th 2014.



Guest panelists Sevaun Palvetzian, CEO of Civic Action Alliance; Ani Hotoyan-Joly, CFO of Coventree Inc.; and Agnes Di Leonardi, General Counsel, Mazda Canada Inc.; each shared stories of the positive experiences and challenges they faced along their professional journeys. The panelists' candid stories had audience members laughing *and* crying, while learning some important strategies for their own success. Panelists told attendees to be open to networking and mentoring opportunities, understand their unique strengths and skillsets, build a supportive network, access resources and not be afraid of taking risks. Above all, panelists inspired each and every one of us that with the right attitude we can 'have it all' and achieve both our personal and professional goals.

This was the inaugural event organized by the *ARS Inspire for Tomorrow* program as it launches a professional women's network. An initiative of the ARS Toronto Roubina Chapter, the program aims to create opportunities for networking and mentoring among female professionals within the Armenian community. "Our people are our richest resource," committee member Rosaline Papissian said in her welcome address at the event. Role-modeling opportunities and the ability to share industry insights, network and share resources are just some of the benefits of building a strong professional network.



If you're interested in learning more about the *ARS Inspire for Tomorrow* program, email arsleadersoftomorrow@gmail.com and stay tuned for upcoming events scheduled for this fall.

