

Biography

Richard C. Alvarez



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President and Chief Executive Officer
Canada Health Infoway

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Mr. Alvarez is a leader in Canadian health care. He is known for taking on challenging mandates and building successful organizations.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Canada Health Infoway, he has been a catalyst for accelerating the development of electronic health records in Canada. He has established strong, collaborative relationships with the federal, provincial and territorial governments and other stakeholders as the foundation for solid progress. He has articulated a broad national vision for reforming Canada's health care system through innovation and technology. On the international front, he has helped to position Canada as a world leader in health care renewal.

Mr. Alvarez recently earned the Institute of Corporate Directors certification at the Rotman School of Management. In 2007 he was recognized as the 2007 National Builder Inductee to the Canadian Information Productivity Awards (CIPA) Hall of Fame for the leadership he has exercised throughout his career (with the Government of Alberta, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and at *Infoway*) in promoting the application of innovative technology to improve health care delivery for Canadians.

Prior to his role at *Infoway*, Mr. Alvarez also played a key role in harnessing the power of information to improve health care. As former president and chief executive officer and ex-officio board member of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), he helped CIHI evolve into a well-known and respected organization with strong ties to the research community.

Mr. Alvarez is past chair of the National Health Information Council. He is a frequent speaker and facilitator at national and international health care conferences and is a past recipient of the Who's Who in Healthcare Award. He is an honorary fellow of the e-Health Research Centre's (EHRC) Advisory Committee of Australia, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Identity, Privacy and Security Initiative at the University of Toronto.

As President and Chief Executive Officer, Richard C. Alvarez is responsible for providing overall direction and leadership for Canada Health Infoway's activities. Formerly, the President and CEO of CIHI, he led the evolution of CIHI from an organization focused on warehousing data, to one that disseminates relevant policy material, and has links with the research community.

Mr. Alvarez is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the publication *Hospital Quarterly*, and also a member of the Editorial Committee for the *International Journal for Quality in Health Care*. He is also the past Chair of the National Health Information Council.

He is a frequent speaker and facilitator at national and international conferences on health care, discussing the challenges facing the health system in Canada and the role of information and information technology within a reformed health system. He was a recipient of one of the *Who's Who in Healthcare Awards*, sponsored by the national magazine, *Canadian Healthcare Manager*.