

## Presenter Profile

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**Tara Piurko**  
Partner  
Miller Thomson LLP

Tara Piurko ([tpiurko@millerthomson.com](mailto:tpiurko@millerthomson.com)) is a partner in the Municipal, Planning & Land Development Group at [Miller Thomson LLP](#). In 2018, she became the first Canadian President of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Network and was recognized as the 67<sup>th</sup> CREW Foundation Visionary. Tara is the 2014 Past President of Toronto CREW, a chapter within CREW Network, and a member of the Urban Land Institute's Women's Leadership Initiative Toronto Championship Team.

Tara has over 15 years of experience in real property assessment and taxation, and municipal law matters, and over 20 years of experience in planning and development law. She is in the business of identifying issues and opportunities, managing risk, avoiding problems, identifying solutions, and creating value. She is also in the business of motherhood and general household management, which also requires the identification of issues and opportunities, managing risk, avoiding problems, identifying solutions, and creating value.

If you were to look at her Miller Thomson Bio or LinkedIn Profile, you may think she has had a straight-line career path to partnership at Miller Thomson. That is, however, not the case. Tara knows that the path to success is ever changing with bumps, surprises, side roads and a little bit of backtracking along the way, as well as many misconceptions of where you are going or the possibilities of where you can go along the way. She also knows that the definition of success is not static. It changes over time and it means different things to different people.

Throughout her seemingly straight-line path career, the five best pieces of advice she would give to her younger self are as follows:

1. Confidence is key – do what you need to do to find it.
2. Vulnerability can be an asset.
3. Public speaking should not be feared – try it early and often.
4. Do not shy away from opportunities – if you are not ready yet, if you step up, you will be ready.
5. You cannot do it all yourself – your network is key, and you need to step beyond your four walls to make those connections.