

**Toronto Association of Systems & Software Quality**

(Affiliated with the Quality Assurance Institute)

A Forum for Professional and Technical Exchange  
Promoting Systems & Software Quality



**NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING**

***Tuesday November 30, 1999***

**Implementing a Project Office: The Merrill Lynch Canada Experience**  
**Linda Vella, Merrill Lynch Canada**

Have you tried to introduce project management principles only to be told that "things change too fast in our environment to implement processes"?

Linda Vella, Vice-President of Project Planning and Services at Merrill Lynch Canada, faced that reaction as well. Nevertheless, she successfully implemented a Project Management Office (PMO) in an organization that is constantly reacting to market conditions.

Ms. Vella's presentation will describe:

- The original challenges in establishing the PMO
- The strategy employed to address those challenges
- The approach the PMO took in prioritizing and rolling out new project management processes
- How the new processes were received and the degree to which they have become accepted
- The benefits that Merrill Lynch Canada has realized
- Progress to date and plans for the future.

Linda Vella has been managing projects for fifteen years and during that time has established project management in three separate organizations. Her experience is varied, having successfully implemented multi-million dollar projects ranging from the financial services industry to a major Canadian retailer, from information technology to business operations. Ms. Vella holds the Project Management Professional (PMP) designation from the Project Management Institute (PMI). She has been an active member of PMI since 1995. Most recently, Ms. Vella was a key contributor to the re-write of the PMI PMP review session materials. Currently she manages, and when available facilitates, the PMP Review Sessions for the Southern Ontario Chapter of PMI.

**Presentations are at The Colony Hotel, 89 Chestnut Street.**

The Colony Hotel is located on 89 Chestnut Street, which crosses Dundas between Bay and University. If taking the subway, get off at St. Patrick's station, walk east along Dundas and turn south on Chestnut. If driving, you can park in the hotel's parking garage, on Chestnut or at City Hall.

**Dinner and Presentation: \$25 Members, \$35 Non-Members**  
**Cash and Cheques are accepted at the door.**

**Please RSVP by the Thursday before the meeting.**

**5:30 P.M. Networking**

**6:15 P.M. Dinner**

**7:30 - 8:45 P.M. Presentation**

**FOR RESERVATIONS, INFORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES, PHONE TASSQ AT (416) 444-4168**