

One Hundred Percent Canadian

Elizabeth Thomson



Elizabeth Thomson is the second veteran from Thunder Bay, Ontario, profiled here and has a long history in Hong Kong. She arrived on these shores in 1977, when the fragrant harbour was still fragrant, for a quick visit with a friend. Within a week, she found a job and never looked back.

Elizabeth started work sorting out a bankruptcy case that shouldn't have existed. It was one between Taiwan and PRC players that officially couldn't do business. One thing led to another and in 1980 she founded her own firm serving offshore entrepreneurs wanting to do business in Hong Kong and now in China. Elizabeth's sound advice and keen business sense is sought out by many clients. "I always advise my clients not to jump right into China but to incorporate a Hong Kong limited liability company to act as a firewall between their parent company and the China operation. Get everything set up in Hong Kong, including the banking facilities, and then established the wholly-foreign owned enterprise or WFOE in China to comply with Chinese legal requirements."

She 'married the Mafia' so to speak, when she wed native Hong Konger Kishore Sahkrani. She tempted him a second time by stealing him away from Citibank to join the firm she started, ICS TRUST. In addition to building a successful business, they built a family with two (now) teenage children, who are equally comfortable speaking Mandarin and fending off mosquitoes in the family's base 'camp' in Thunder Bay.

Elizabeth is passionate about contributing to both Canadian and Hong Kong communities. Many Canadian art exhibits and book readings in Hong Kong have enjoyed the sponsorship of her company, ICS TRUST. She sets an example for and founded the Women Business Owners' Club and has served as past Chair of the Canadian Club in Hong Kong, a social and charitable association supporting Hong Kong's less fortunate. "It is very rewarding to give something back to the community after having a successful business here for over 25 years."

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