



Readings in Global Organization Design 2005 Conference Proceedings

Global Talent Management

by Donald V. Fowke FCMC

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Global Talent Management

Donald V. Fowke FCMC







CONTENTS

This report describes a talent management, succession planning system that provides the structure and discipline within which managers – from front-line to CEO – can make the judgments, take the decisions and initiate the actions needed to supply the talent needed for growth. The system integrates Global Organization Design principles of structure and development into a web-based, user-friendly support for best management practices.

CEO: "I need to know where my business unit heads are coming from seven years from now."	1
Vice-President: "Our young engineers are getting into middle management without basic skills in people-management."	3
General Manager: "We need bosses, and boss's bosses, to come to a meeting of the minds about what young managers and professionals need to develop fully. It's tough when everybody is moving around the way they do."	4
High flyer: "You know, career visibility is important. I need to know that how I'm doing and what I want to do is on the screen of the powers that be. If not, I'll go someplace where I'm seen."	8
VP HR: "Our tendency in appointments has been to grab the closest warm body and get on with it. To have managers consider a broader group, including people they don't know, they need a simple way of getting the information, which should include track record, judgments on potential, and developmental needs."	0
COO: "I've got accountability for nine direct reports. And I've got manager-once-removed accountability for 47 others. I can't stay on top of this unless I've got all the information at my fingertips when I need it, including salary and incentive options."	2

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CEO: "I need to know where my business unit heads are coming from seven years from now."

HR: We have a new CEO. And this was the first thing he put to me. It was serious, because he came with a very ambitious mandate to grow the company. I'm happy to report I could give him pretty good answers because our Global Talent Management System puts them at my fingertips. The next day I gave him *Exhibit 1*, and we spent an hour talking about the developmental experiences needed to prepare the most promising candidates. What he was looking for, of course, were managers who would be, or would become, capable at stratum V, were motivated, and who we could assure had the necessary skilled knowledge and experience to run a business unit.²

He could have very good confidence in the data, because it represents judgments by each candidate's manager and manager-once-removed, the boss's boss so to speak, as you can see in $Exhibit\ II$

That was not always the case. When we started with Talent Management five years ago we relied heavily on expert interviews by our consultants to assess current potential capability. This got us started in a practical way, and as our managers worked with ideas of distinct strata for managerial work, they got to be pretty good at distinguishing, for example, between somebody capable at stratum III high or stratum IV low. You can see in *Exhibit II* how these judgments are recorded in our system.

We know that high potential talent needs to be identified early. Men and women who will be business leaders at Stratum V and above need to make the turn from front line manager at stratum II to manager of managers at stratum III before age 27. And they need to be able to assume general management roles before age 43.

"...capable
at stratum V,
motivated,
with the skilled
knowledge and
experience to run
a business unit."



EXHIBIT I

Owen Chemicals

Forecast Executive Talent 2005 - 2017

	2005	2009	2013	2017
7.3				
7.2			1	
7.1		1		1
6.3	1		1	2
6.2		1	1	1
6.1	1	1	2	4
5.3		2	1	6
5.2	3	1	10	8
5.1	7	9	6	6
4.3	11	16	14	13
4.2	16	10	10	6
4.1	7	4	2	2
	46	45	48	49

Chief Officers, Group VPs

2005 Top Executives			
		Stratum	
Morton	Frederick	6.3	
Harvey	Shirley	6.1	

2009 Top Executives

	Stratum
Morton Frederick	7.1
Harvey Shirley	6.2
Reynolds Robert	6.1

2017 Top Executives

		Stratum
Harvey	Shirley	6.3
Reynolds	Robert	6.3
Carlyle	Terry	6.2
Stacey	Francis	6.1
Barber	Lloyd	6.1
Tremblay	Alain	6.1
Herbert	Albert	6.1

2013 Top Executives

		Stratuin
Morton Fre	ederick	7.2
Harvey 5	Shirley	6.3
Reynolds	Robert	6.2
Carlyle	Terry	6.1
Stacey I	Francis	6.1

Business Unit or Equivalent

2005 V Capable: Business Unit President or Equivalent

		Stratum
Lavery	Kenneth	5.2
Gagnon	Lisanne	5.2
Carlyle	Terry	5.2
Fortier	Dennis	5.1
Cameron	Angeline	5.1
Chan	Ian	5.1
Voight	David	5.1
Roberton	John	5.1
Kilburn	Dale	5.1
Morton	Marion	5.1
1 101 0011	1 1011011	3.1

2009 V Capable: Business Unit President or Equivalent

business offic Frestuent of Equivalent			
		Stratum	
Lavery	Kenneth	5.3	
Carlyle	Terry	5.3	
Cameron	Angeline	5.2	
Roberton	John	5.1	
Kilburn	Dale	5.1	
Burton	Lesley	5.1	
Garland	Eric	5.1	
MacDonald	Sarah	5.1	
Briant	Andre	5.1	
Darryl	Daniel	5.1	
Arbuthnot	Dianne	5.1	
Pratt	Pauline	5.1	

2013 V Capable: Business Unit President or Equivalent

		Stratum
Lavery	Kenneth	5.3
Cameron	Angeline	5.2
Roberton	John	5.2
Kilburn	Dale	5.2
Burton	Lesley	5.2
Garland	Eric	5.2
Macdonald	Sarah	5.2
Briant	Andre	5.2
Darryl	Daniel	5.2
Arbuthnot	Dianne	5.2
Clarkson	Rick	5.2
Pratt	Pauline	5.1
McMillan	Timothy	5.1
Carson	Victoria	5.1
Chanson	Theresa	5.1
DuBarry	Dianne	5.1
McCusker	Herb	5.1
riccusici	71010	5.1

2017 V Capable: Business Unit President or Equivalent

		Stratum
Lavery	Kenneth	5.3
Cameron	Angeline	5.3
Burton	Lesley	5.3
Garland	Eric	5.3
MacDonald	Sarah	5.3
Clarkson	Rick	5.3
Roberton	John	5.2
Kilburn	Dale	5.2
Briant	Andre	5.2
Darryl	Daniel	5.2
Arbuthnot	Dianne	5.2
Pratt	Pauline	5.2
Jean	Dianne	5.2
Rilkoff	Mike	5.2
McMillan	Timothy	5.1
Bradford	Terrance	5.1
Standish	Richard	5.1
Giguere	Mark	5.1
Woodbury	David	5.1
Carrier	Damien	5.1

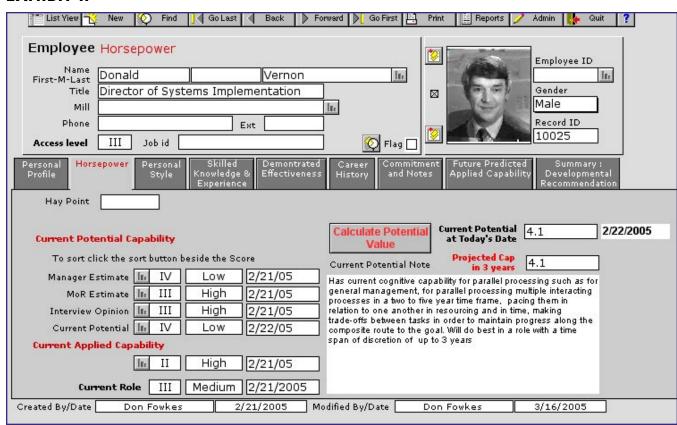
Vice-President: "Our young engineers are getting into middle management without basic skills in people-management."

HR: The literature about developing leaders is clear about the importance of managing "turns". Making a turn is moving from one managerial stratum to the next. Stephen Drotter, for example, distinguishes among "mastery potential", the ability to do better at the same level of work, "growth potential", the ability to do bigger jobs at the same level in the near term, and "turn potential", the ability to move to a higher stratum in three to five years.³

We have a lot of engineers in our company, and when they come in they are doing technical work. Engineers aren't necessarily the best people-people. But many of our senior managers come from engineering backgrounds, and the really critical thing is getting them the necessary skilled knowledge and experience in managing people. That is why we make such a point of having managers routinely assess subordinate skills in the managerial practices, as you can see in *Exhibit III*. So when our system alerts, as it does in *Exhibit II*, that an individual is coming up on an important turn, we pay close attention to his or her ratings on the managerial practices. We've learned that these skills need to become second nature, and the best time to get it right is before the turn from stratum II to stratum III. For a young engineer doing a first supervisory job at level II, we need their immediate superior at level III to coach intensively on the managerial practices. And we insist that their manager-once-removed at level IV make sure those skills are developed before we move them on. You get what you inspect, not what you expect.

"...these skills need to become second nature... before the turn from front-line to manager of managers."

EXHIBIT II

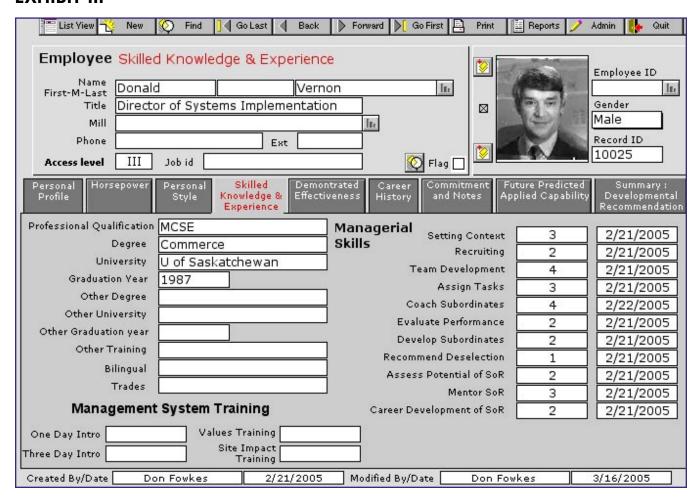


General Manager: "We need bosses, and boss's bosses, to come to a meeting of the minds about what young managers and professionals need to develop fully. It's tough when everybody is moving around the way they do."

"We do this on the fly through our Talent Management System, which is now web-based and therefore accessible from anywhere in the world." HR: One of the principles of Global Organization Design is that the manager-once-removed is key to the development of leadership talent. We found this perhaps the hardest thing we had to learn to do as a company. At very senior levels, the manager-once-removed scope can feel overwhelming. A group vice-president, for example, may have as many as seven business units reporting to him. His subordinates once removed could easily number 40 or 50 stratum IV or high stratum III managers.

We have had "gearing sessions", where we got our corporate executives and business unit presidents in the same room to review the talent. I know this is the way Jack Welch insisted on doing it at General Electric. To the degree we have been successful with this, it has improved our executives' understanding of what we are measuring, such as current potential capability as opposed to how it is being applied right now, and what that long term potential might be, etc. I'd consistently recommend we do more of it.

EXHIBIT III

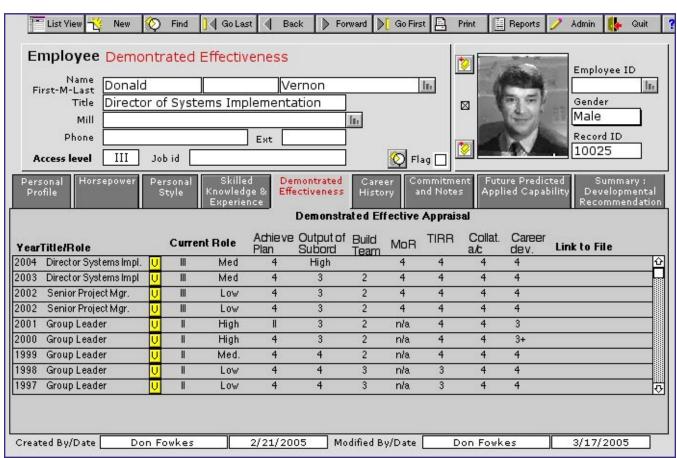


But practically speaking, our executives are too much on the move internationally to be able to do enough of this. We have learned to do this on the fly through our Talent Management System, which is now web-based and therefore accessible from anywhere in the world. Or for those who like to work on long international or cross country flights, we make a disk-based version of their talent pool available to them.

The key to this, of course, is having all the information available in the same place in electronic form, as in *Exhibit IV*. No more papers or forms that they need to lug around, which of course they won't do. So the Talent Management System has historical effectiveness appraisal data so that both managers and managers once removed can see how individuals have done in each job they've had with the company. This is important, because track record is a very good predictor, and we need to balance our sense of potential with measures of actual performance. The file also contains information on work history in previous employment, which is helpful in forming an opinion of what gaps need to be filled, as in *Exhibit V*.

Overall, we want the managers and managers once removed to agree on something we call "future predicted applied capability". What this means is a considered opinion, taking into account all of the data, including forecasts of mature potential capability. In other words, we

EXHIBIT IV



"The manageronce-removed is key to this because he is accountable for the long term development of people who work for his direct reports." want agreement on how far the individual is likely to be able to rise in the real world in this company, as indicated in *Exhibit VI*. Through cyberspace we get independent readings from managers and managers-once-removed, and very often there is close agreement because our executives have become increasingly skilled as they have worked with the system. Of course, where there is disagreement we need to go back to them to sort it out, sometimes by email or by phone, and sometimes sitting down together to hash it out.

Every year we want the manager and manager-once-removed to agree on a developmental plan for the individual. We ask the individual to take the initiative in this because our philosophy is that people are accountable for their own development. So the first ideas to appear in *Exhibit VII* are entered by the individual, in terms of the experience he feels he needs and the kind of educational programs that would help him.

The manager-once-removed is key to this because he is accountable for the long-term development of the people who work for his direct reports. He can take a point of view that may make it tough for the manager short-term for the long-run good of the individual and the company. And he has access to roles in other operating units or other businesses that might provide needed rounding. In the end, of course, we want a meeting of the minds. In practice, the most back-and-forth, and face-to-face discussion usually takes place around the highest potential people, as it should.

EXHIBIT V

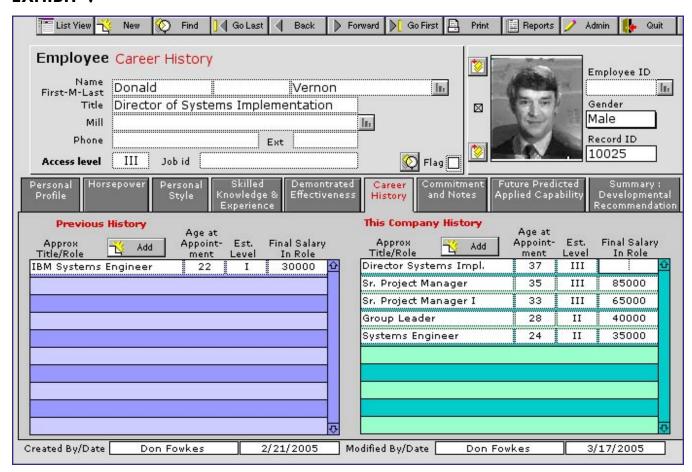


EXHIBIT VI

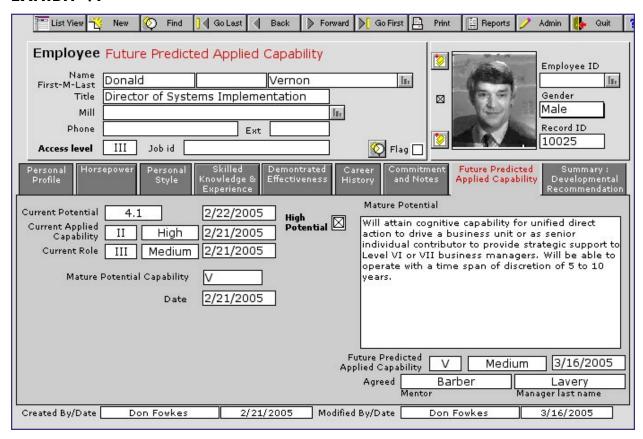
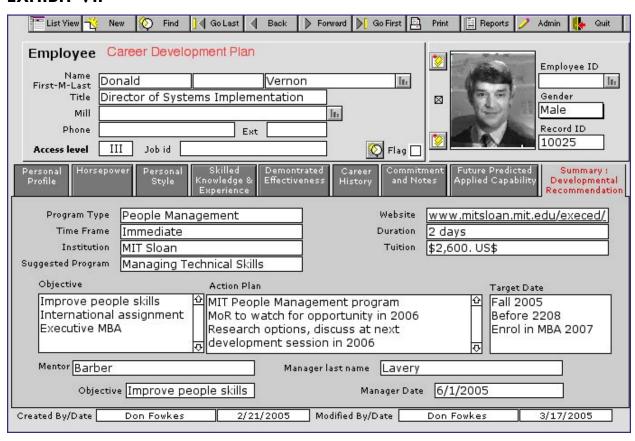


EXHIBIT VII



High flyer: "You know, career visibility is important. I need to know that how I'm doing and what I want to do is on the screen of the powers that be. If not, I'll go someplace where I'm seen."

"...the individual knows that the manager-once-removed is looking out for him...and the system keeps people from getting lost and overlooked."

HR: One of the really important HR jobs here is keeping the Global Talent Management System files up-to-date and the processes moving. At corporate headquarters we are accountable for managers in stratum IV roles and higher, which means plant managers and equivalents in other functional areas. We rely on business unit HR to handle stratum I to III. Their work is very important because they are the source of the talent stream we count on for the future.

We have a profile for each individual updated each year, like that in *Exhibit VIII*. This snapshot is produced from our system, and is a good summary. It makes for a talking point with the manager-once-removed. Managers-once-removed try to touch base, however briefly, with every subordinate-once-removed during the year. They tend to do this as they move around the company in the normal course of business, or maybe at annual offsite meetings.

For high potential talent, managers once removed and managers sit down together with the individual for a good discussion. This ensures that good feedback is given from their immediate boss, and the boss's boss has first-hand exposure to the individual, and the individual can be assured that the manager-once-removed is looking out for him, and considering options in other divisions or units that may fit with the development plan.

Individuals keep their file up-to-date, with courses they take, etc., and importantly with the first draft they make of their developmental plan. And individuals need to take initiative in making the things that are in the plan happen, to the degree that they have the authority to do so. Superiors and HR need to open the way for other things.

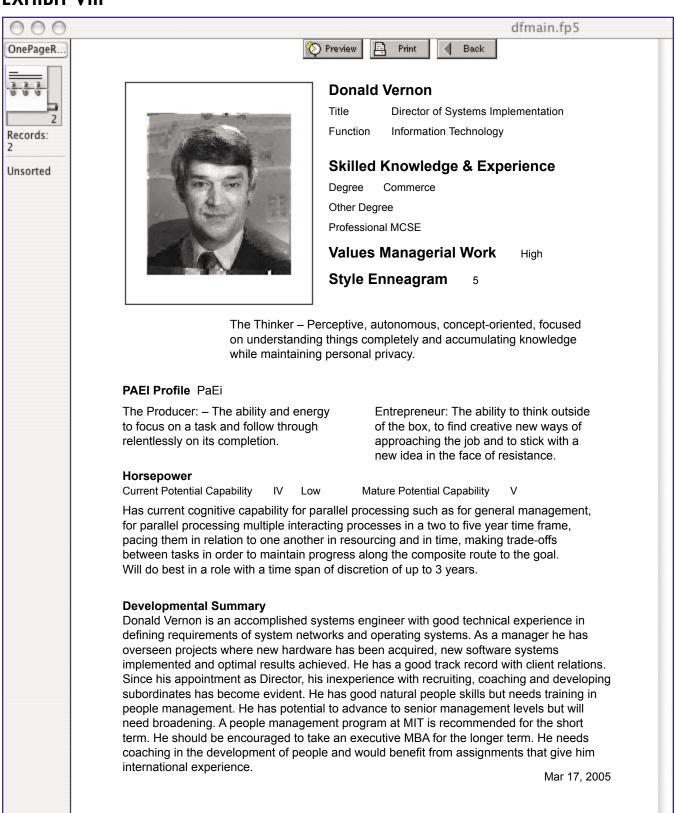
Overall this system keeps people from getting lost and overlooked, and we have a good track record of keeping the talent we want and need to support our future growth.



EXHIBIT VIII

100

Browse

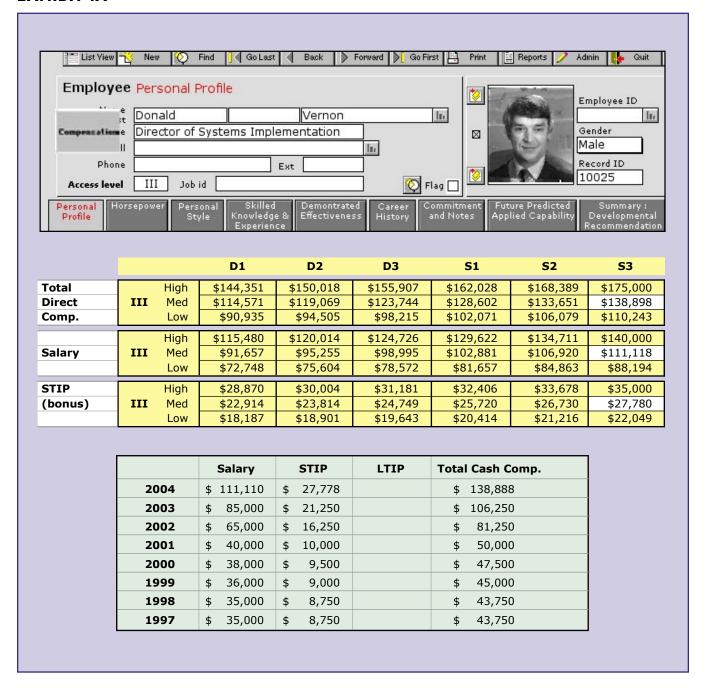


VP HR: "Our tendency in appointments has been to grab the closest warm body and get on with it. To have managers consider a broader group, including people they don't know, they need a simple way of getting the information, which should include track record, judgments on potential, and developmental needs."

"Our better HR managers take their laptops into the boss's office and run through a series of options." HR: This has maybe been the toughest thing to implement. It requires managers to be willing to bend their urgent priorities a bit to get a solution that is better for the company as a whole. The key has been for HR managers to develop computer skills and spend the time sifting through the files so that an array of alternative candidates comes up. Having lead time with retirements or known moves allows us to make use of emerging vacancies to take staffing actions that are better for the people in the system and best for the company. Our better HR managers take their laptops into the boss's office, plug it in to the on-line system, project it onto the wall, and run through a series of options.



EXHIBIT IX



COO: "I've got accountability for nine direct reports. And I've got manager-once-removed accountability for 47 others. I can't stay on top of this unless I've got all the information at my fingertips when I need it, including salary and incentive options."

"...we have a living, evolving system...structure and discipline within which managers... initiate the actions needed to build our inventory of talent."

HR: It will be clear we had the COO's concerns in mind when we put the system together the way we did.⁴ As a matter of fact, we are still working with an awkward interface with the payroll system, but we are gradually getting to full integration.

Most recently we have implemented a compensation module, based on "felt fair" pay structures. Now managers can make salary adjustments, and short- and long-term incentive recommendations right in system, in the full context of all the information about individuals, as indicated in *Exhibit IX*.

Overall, we have a living, evolving system that provides the structure and discipline within which managers – from front-line managers to CEOs – can make the judgments, take the decisions and initiate the actions needed to build our inventory of talent, globally.

¹ Don Fowke is a management consultant with the New Management Network (www.new-management-network.com). In the spirit of the report by Maurice Dutrisac, Don Fowke, Herb Koplowitz and Ken Shepard entitled *Global Organization Design*, Toronto, March 2005, the present report uses the voice of the Director of Human Resources and Organization Development of the fictitious "Owen Chemicals" to tell a composite story of implementation of the Global Talent Management System.

² The concepts of strata and developmental path used are inspired by Kathryn Cason and Elliott Jaques, *Human Capability*, Cason Hall Publishers, Gloucester MA, 1994.

³ Ram Charan, Stephen Drotter, James Noel, *The Leadership Pipeline: How to Build the Leadership Powered Company*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, 2001.

⁴ The Global Talent Management System is implemented in Filemaker Pro by Claris.







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Suite 303, 168 King Street East, Toronto, Ontario CANADA M5A 4S4 Tel. (416) 214-1370 or 1-800-387-2165 Fax (416) 214-1373 www.new-management-network.com



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Promoting among potential users of the methods, appreciation of the variety of uses and benefits of science-based management, and access to resources.

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CONTACT US

Global Organization Design Society 32 Victor Avenue

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4K 1A8

Phone: +1 (416) 463-0423
Fax: +1 (416) 463-7827
E-mail: Info@GlobalRO.org
URL: www.GlobalRO.org





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