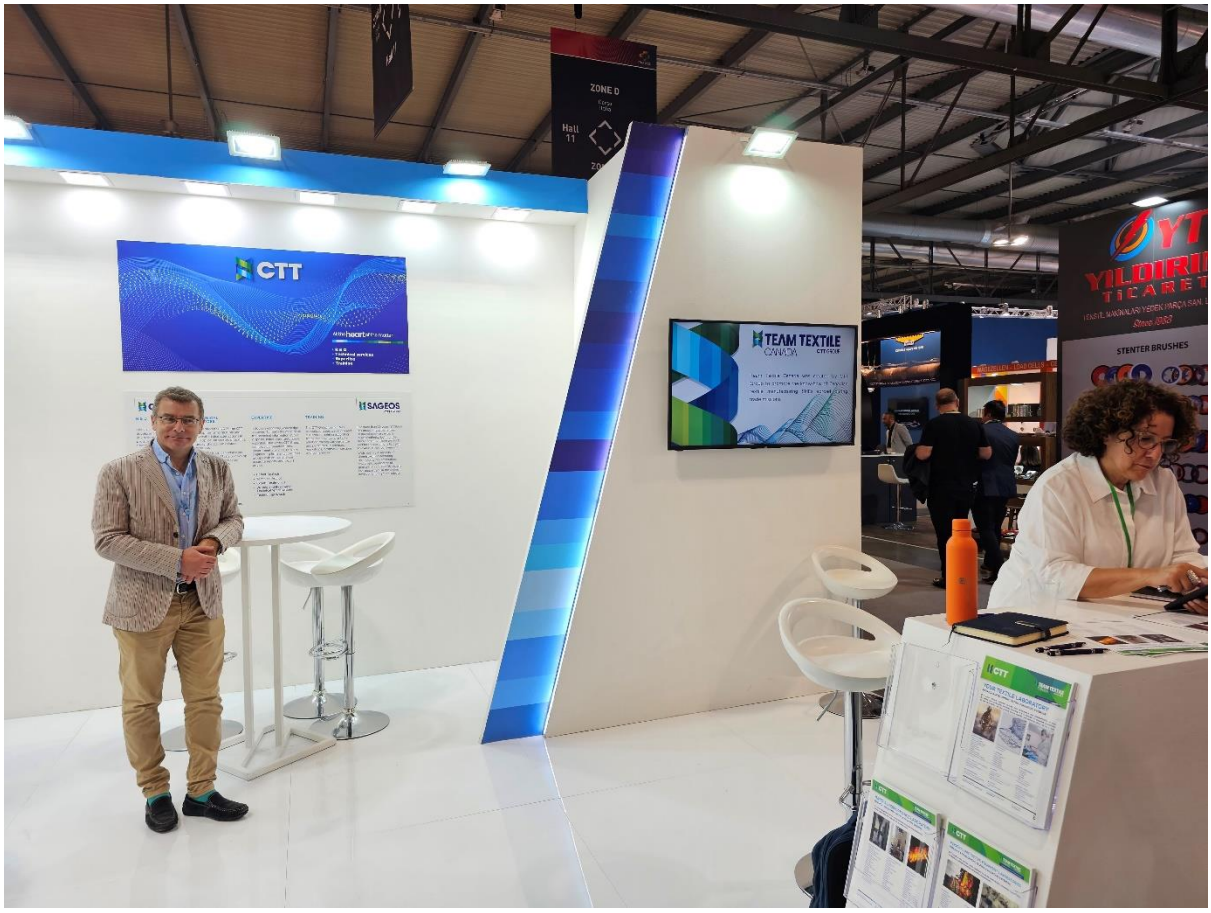
# Innovations and Sustainability in the Canadian Textile Industry




**FACE2FACE at ITMA 2023 with Mr Valerio Izquierdo, Vice-President, Business Development and Partnerships, of CTT Group**

**Mr Kinny:** Thank you for joining us today. We have the pleasure of speaking with a prominent figure in the Canadian Textile Industry to shed light on the exciting research and development initiatives shaping the sector. Can you start by telling us about the number of members actively involved in these innovations?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Thank you for having me. The Canadian Textile Industry boasts an impressive number of members actively engaged in research and development, including various companies, research teams, and organizations. The industry is highly inclusive, welcoming anyone with innovative ideas and a passion for creating cutting-edge products.

**Mr Kinny**: That's impressive indeed. Could you elaborate on the industry's focus on research and development and how it plays a vital role in driving innovations?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Research and development are at the core of our industry's growth and success. Our services are oriented towards fostering a culture of innovation and supporting companies in bringing novel products to the market. We

are committed to providing a main access point for research and development, facilitating collaborations between stakeholders and promoting knowledge exchange.

**Mr Kinny**: Fascinating. With such a diverse range of research areas, could you highlight some of the key focus areas within the Canadian Textile Industry?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Absolutely. The area of research in the Canadian Textile Industry covers a broad spectrum. Notable focus areas include smart textiles, textile chemistry, technical textiles, composite preforms, and geosynthetics. We aim to explore the potential of these fields and apply the knowledge gained to develop innovative products that cater to various industries and market needs.

**Mr Kinny**: The commitment to research and product development sounds promising. How does the industry ensure that the knowledge and advancements are accessible to interested companies?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: We take pride in our collaborative approach. Our research and development initiatives are open to any company or organization that wishes to participate and contribute to our collective growth. Our members have access to valuable research insights, fostering a supportive environment where we can all learn and progress together.

**Mr Kinny**: It's great to hear about such inclusivity. Speaking of membership, how many companies are currently a part of the Canadian Textile Industry?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Presently, we have around 360 active members, comprising manufacturers and research teams. Among them, 320 are actively participating in evaluations, research projects, and product development endeavors.

**Mr Kinny** : That's quite an extensive network. With such support, how do manufacturers enhance their production efficiency and adopt more sustainable practices?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Manufacturers, particularly those in Quebec, benefit from the region's mainly hydroelectricity-based energy sources, leading to lower power consumption and reduced carbon footprint. Additionally, we encourage interactions between members, which often lead to knowledge-sharing and the adoption of eco-friendly practices that promote sustainability.

**Mr Kinny** : That's commendable. How do Canadian textile companies explore the overseas market for their products?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Exploring overseas markets is a crucial aspect of our growth strategy. We encourage Canadian manufacturers to leverage their expertise and innovations on a global scale. While the industry faces some challenges, such as limited recognition in certain international markets, our focus remains on fostering collaborations and building strategic partnerships to expand our reach.

**Mr Kinny**: Collaboration and partnerships seem key to success. Can you tell us more about collaborative projects and the government's support for research and development in Canada?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Collaborative projects are the backbone of our industry's progress. The Canadian government plays a pivotal role in supporting research and development initiatives, offering funding and resources for joint ventures. This support strengthens our capacity to innovate and enhances the potential for impactful outcomes.

**Mr Kinny**: It's heartening to see the government's involvement. However, you mentioned that the Canadian Textile Industry is not as well-known outside of Canada. How do you plan to overcome this and attract more investments in research and development?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Attracting investments is undoubtedly a challenge, but we are actively working on raising our profile on the global stage. Emphasizing our commitment to higher performance and eco-friendly products will help showcase the potential returns on investment for those seeking to collaborate with us. Building a strong international network is key to breaking barriers and gaining recognition.

**Mr Kinny**: That sounds like a promising approach. With sustainability being a major concern, how does the industry promote recycling and circular economy practices?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Sustainability is at the heart of our mission. We promote recycling of textiles and advocate for the adoption of circular economy principles. Our efforts aim to minimize chemical effects and reduce the environmental impact of textile production. By reusing and recycling fibers, we contribute to a greener future for the industry.

**Mr Kinny**: Truly commendable efforts. Before we conclude, could you share your vision for the Canadian Textile Industry's future?

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Our vision is to establish Canada as a global leader in textile innovation and sustainability. By nurturing a collaborative and inclusive ecosystem, we aim to revolutionize the sector, creating products that address the needs of various industries while preserving our planet's resources. Together, we can shape a brighter and more sustainable future for the Canadian Textile Industry.

**Mr Kinny**: Thank you for sharing your insights with us. It's clear that the Canadian Textile Industry is on a path of innovation and sustainability, and we look forward to witnessing its continued growth and success.

**Mr Valerio Izquierdo**: Thank you. It was my pleasure to be here and discuss the exciting developments in our industry. We are dedicated to making a positive impact and driving progress for a better tomorrow.