

Introducing

MARISE MAY

FOUNDER | SPEAKER |
PURPOSE-DRIVEN LEADER

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ABOUT MARISE

Marise is a social entrepreneur and co-founder of the Montreal-based brand Cha's Organics. Healthy diets, avoidance of chemical toxins, and environmental protection are core values she was raised with that led her to pursue a degree in Nutritional Science focusing on plant-based diets at the University of British Columbia, where she graduated with honours.

In 2004, she travelled to Asia and met her life partner Chanaka while living in Tokyo. On a visit to his native land of Sri Lanka, she fell in love with the culture, traditions and food of this island country, and they soon relocated to Canada to bring these foods to North American kitchens with the creation of Cha's Organics in 2006.

As a lifelong vegetarian who avoids gluten and dairy and the mother of a child who suffers from severe dietary sensitivities, Marise is mindful of offering other families clean-ingredient foods that are always organic, plant-based, gluten- and dairy-free and that also taste great.

Marise is a past board member of the Canada Organic Trade Association, the Quebec Fair Trade Association, and Fairtrade Canada. Her happy place is in the garden, and she is passionate about the pursuit of knowledge, the free expression of life, and the regeneration of our planet's ecosystems and food systems.



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“We met on the board of directors of the Canada Organic Trade Association, and I immediately knew we were kindred spirits. Marise has a deep understanding and clear perspective. She follows the threads in the weave of modern living and traces human wellness back to the key elements needed for health as well as understanding what must be avoided to steer clear of illness. No wonder this has led her to devote her energy to bringing natural foods, herbs and spices to our modern lives through Cha’s Organic. She has correctly identified the two most important aspects of organic agriculture: Essential to boost natural food vitality and carefully avoiding the introduction of foreign and toxic substances.”

Dag Falk

Past Chair, Canada Organic Trade Association

MARISE MAY

Marise is a passionate female founder and entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience building Cha's Organics, Canada's number one-selling organic coconut milk brand. She co-founded the company from the ground up, bootstrapping a family business while raising children, navigating the challenges of entrepreneurship and motherhood with determination and authenticity. With an educational background in Nutritional Science specializing in plant-based nutrition, Marise combines her deep knowledge of health and wellness with a commitment to advocacy and artistry in product development. Her leadership focuses on regenerative business practices, ethical sourcing, and creating brands that make a positive impact on communities and the environment. Marise's journey is a powerful example of balancing family, values, and business success. She shares candid insights on purpose-driven entrepreneurship, sustainable food systems, and empowering women to lead with confidence and integrity.

Grow With Purpose:

Building Businesses That Leave More Than Profits Behind

Marise empowers leaders to build businesses that thrive by creating value for people, communities, and the planet. Through her inspiring entrepreneurial journey and practical leadership lessons, she demonstrates that purpose isn't a tradeoff; rather, it's the foundation for sustainable growth, resilient organizations, and lasting impact.

Building Businesses That Nourish People, Profit, and the Planet

We are living in a world driven by quarterly results and rapid growth. Marise challenges leaders to think differently. Drawing from nearly two decades of building Cha's Organics, she shares how purpose, ethical decision-making, and long-term thinking can become a competitive advantage. Audiences leave with a renewed perspective on how purpose-driven leadership can create meaningful impact for employees, customers, communities, and future generations.



“Marise was a thoughtful and compelling speaker at our CHFA NOW Toronto event, bringing both industry expertise and an approachable style that resonated strongly with our audience.”

Aaron Skelton

President & CEO, Canadian Health Food Association



SEE MORE OF HER WORK

READY TO BOLDLY MAKE A MARK ON YOUR EVENT?

Inkwell MGMT is here to collaborate with you to bring Marise May's energy and expertise to your next event. Whether you're looking to inspire, motivate, or educate your audience, Marise May is ready to deliver a transformative experience.

Let's make it happen! Connect with Stevie Johns at Inkwell MGMT today, and together, what we create will be unforgettable.

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