

Author | Speaker | Thinker
Leadership & Culture Strategist



Dan Pontefract is a renowned leadership strategist, culture change expert, author, and keynote speaker with two decades of experience in senior executive roles at companies such as SAP, TELUS, and Business Objects. In these roles, he focused on corporate culture change, leadership development, employee experience, and overall performance improvement.

Since then, he has worked with organizations globally, including Salesforce, Amgen, State of Tennessee, Nestlé, Canada Post, Autodesk, BMO, Government of Canada, Manulife, Nutrien, UBC, McGill University, Virgin Media O2, City of Toronto, among others. Dan has firsthand experience in turning leaders and corporate cultures into a competitive advantage.

He believes that the future of work is now.

Dan has written five books: WORK-LIFE BLOOM, LEAD. CARE. WIN., OPEN TO THINK, THE PURPOSE EFFECT, and FLAT ARMY. His third book, OPEN TO THINK, won the 2019 getAbstract International Book of the Year. His fourth LEAD. CARE. WIN. won the 2022 Nautilus Awards Silver Medal for Leadership. WORK-LIFE BLOOM gained the Thinkers50 Top New Management Book distinction and the Axiom Business Book Awards Gold Medal. Dan also writes for Forbes, Harvard Business Review & other outlets.

Dan is a renowned keynote speaker who has presented at four TED events and delivers approximately 50 keynotes annually. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Victoria's School of Business and received over 25 industry, individual, and book awards.

Dan hosts the popular Leadership NOW program & podcast, where he interviews thinkers, authors, CEOs, and other leaders from around the world.

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Before leaving the corporate world full-time in 2018, Dan served as Chief Envisioner and Chief Learning Officer at TELUS, a Canadian telecommunications company with over 100,000 global employees and over \$18 billion in revenue. While at TELUS, he launched the Transformation Office, the TELUS MBA, and the TELUS Leadership Philosophy, all of which helped increase engagement to nearly 90%.

Prior to TELUS, Dan held senior executive positions for 12 years with SAP, Business Objects, Crystal Decisions, and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). Dan's career is interwoven with corporate and academic experience, coupled with an MBA, B.Ed, and multiple industry certifications and awards. Notably, Dan is listed on the Thinkers50 Radar, HR Weekly's 100 Most Influential People in HR, PeopleHum's Top 200 Thought Leaders to Follow, LeaderHum's Top 200 Voices in Leadership and Inc. Magazine's Top 100 Leadership Speakers.

In 2010, Dan was acknowledged by CLO as a Vanguard Award winner. In addition, he was a 2-time winner by the Corporate University Best in Class Awards of the Leader of the Year in 2010 and 2011. In 2012, SkillSoft awarded Dan the 'Learning Leader of the Year' for his work at TELUS, and CLO Magazine also bestowed the Learning in Practice Innovation Award.

He is also the recipient of the 2012 Brandon-Hall Gold Award in Strategy & Governance. In 2015, TELUS became a 10-time winner of the prestigious ATD BEST award under his leadership and was the first-ever recipient of the ATD Hall of Fame distinction.

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