



Karen Furguele Honored for Leadership and Service to UPFDA

At the UPFDA Annual Meeting in October 2024, Karen Furguele was honored with a prestigious award recognizing her many years of dedicated leadership and service to the organization. The award was presented by then-President, Cisse Spragins, Ph.D. in appreciation of her lasting contributions as a past president, treasurer, and longtime leader within UPFDA.

Furguele, who also serves as president of Gardex Chemicals Ltd. in Toronto, Ontario, has played a pivotal role in shaping UPFDA's direction and growth. As the first woman and non-U.S. resident to hold the position of UPFDA president, she has been a trailblazer, setting an example of leadership and commitment to advancing the industry.



During her tenure, Furguele worked tirelessly to strengthen UPFDA's network of manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers in the pest control industry. Her strategic guidance as treasurer helped ensure the association's financial health, and her leadership fostered collaboration among members, driving innovation and progress.

Beyond her formal roles, Furguele has been a mentor and advocate for professionals in the pest management industry. She has actively recruited new talent, championed diversity, and encouraged greater participation in industry associations. Her influence extends beyond UPFDA, as she has been a strong supporter of community initiatives, including Gardex Chemicals' annual toy and food drives benefiting local women's shelters.

The award presentation at the UPFDA Annual Meeting served as a moment of gratitude and recognition for Furguele's lasting impact on the association. Colleagues and industry leaders praised her dedication, vision, and unwavering commitment to the success of UPFDA and its members.

Karen Furguele's recognition at the 2024 UPFDA Annual Meeting stands as a testament to her exceptional contributions and enduring legacy within the organization and the broader pest management industry.