



Tareq Hadhad

**Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Peace by Chocolate
Halifax, Nova Scotia**

Recently recognized as one of the Top 50 CEOs in Atlantic Canada by *Atlantic Business Magazine*, Tareq Hadhad was a Syrian refugee and is the founder and CEO of Peace by Chocolate. In 2012, the Hadhad's home and factory that housed the family chocolate-making business were destroyed, forcing them to seek safety in other countries. A former medical student at Damascus University and long-time peace-keeping advocate, Tareq joined medical relief efforts after arriving in Lebanon. A new life began when Tareq and his family were welcomed to Canada on a community-based sponsorship. Passionate about peace and entrepreneurship, his family relaunched the family business. Their story has turned into an international inspiring phenomenon about resilience in the face of adversity, including a bestselling book and feature film. Now officially a Canadian citizen, Tareq has had the privilege of meeting Barack Obama, Canadian prime ministers and other world leaders. His awards and accomplishments include Top 30 Under 30 Innovator by *Atlantic Business Magazine* in 2022, EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021 for Atlantic, Top 25 Canadian Immigrants, National Hero Case, RBC's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2020, and Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal. Tareq has delivered keynote presentations for a wide range of audiences in different countries and done more than 1,000 interviews with news teams across the globe.