CAN-CWIC

Day 1:

After registration, all the attendees were mingling in the lobby. Although I wasn't able to introduce myself to everyone, I was able to meet a few unique individuals coming from all over Canada with varying degrees of education, who were as excited as me to attend the conference.

After mingling, the doors to the banquet were opened and we (Sanchini and I) sat

down at a table along with a few friends that we made! Throughout the evening, we gotten to know the people who were seated around our table. We shared stories, experiences, and laughters.

Nearing the end of the banquet, Morgan Klein-MacNeil, VP, Finance Technology at TD came on stage to share her experiences in tech and her mindset throughout her failures and successes. It was really exciting to hear her journey

and that even someone at her level in the corporate latter also feels, at times, inadequate for a new role. This keynote taught me the importance of trying new things and having confidence to step out of your comfort zone.
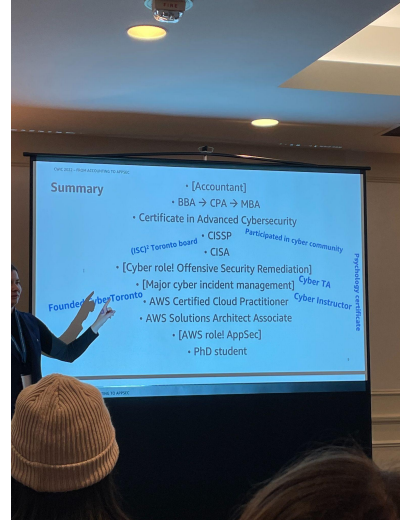
Day 2:

The second day of CAN-CWIC was split into two parts - sessions that talk about various different topics and a lunch fair.

The sessions that I attended varied from industries and roles that I had not know existed. Such talks were about the meta verse and the cybersecurity aspect within the RCMP. Attending these sessions

gave me a short and sweet insight as what we can do as computer science students, beyond working for a software company. The session that I found the most interesting was the cyber security talk given by Jessica Burns & Victoria Gray from the RCMP Cybercrime Investigative Team. This talk peaked my interest into cybersecurity and the importance of it, especially during this where everything is so readily available on the internet.

The most exciting part was the career fair that was happening in parallel with lunch. After finishing up with my food, I walked and talked to many representatives that were at the booths. I asked questions about what some projects that a specific company is currently doing, what are some coop opportunities that are available, and their roles/interests in the company.

After a short break, the closing ceremony was held at the main room where they had an interactive panel session with various women in diverse roles at different companies. They talked about hardships that they have encountered to get where they are today, discrimination being in the workforce as a women, and what lessons they have learnt. This closing ceremony was a perfect way to end this exciting weekend at CAN-CWIC. Not only did I see the reality of working in the tech industry, it also gave me hope that I can make it and can be the source of change in regards to equality and equity for the future.