

MEDIA RELEASE

Discovery Centre Volunteer Receives CA of the Year Award

For immediate release

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The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia (ICANS) is proud to announce that **Owen Barnhill**, CA, Director of Corporate Development with EastLink, is the recipient of its **2011 Ross L. Towler CA of the Year Award**.

“As tradition holds, the award is presented to an individual who exemplifies and celebrates the dedication of Nova Scotia CAs working tirelessly for good causes in their communities,” explains ICANS’ CEO and Executive Director, **Michele Wood-Tweel**, FCA. “In their careers, CAs span the spectrum of organizational management and with superior financial expertise, strategic thinking and business insight, they are natural leaders, especially when it comes to volunteering and community development. As this year’s CA of the Year, Owen personifies an excellent symbol of volunteerism and leadership, and serves as a wonderful mentor to our new CAs.”

With a career enriched by volunteerism, ICANS is particularly proud of Owen’s leadership as Board Treasurer for the Discovery Centre. His commitment, dedication and passion have been tremendous influences in helping the Discovery Centre achieve success in fulfilling its mission and financial performance. In recent years, both the Discovery Centre’s visitation and fundraising revenue have significantly increased, and working with Owen’s valued counsel, the organization has achieved some of the best years in its 26-year history.

“Owen is one of those individuals you can always count on,” says **Dov Bercovici**, President and CEO, Discovery Centre. “His advice is always well thought through and his work as our volunteer treasurer has made a major impact on the Discovery Centre’s financial sustainability and long-term success.”

Named after Ross L. Towler, FCA, upon his retirement in 1997, after 28 years of service as the Institute’s Executive Director, the CA of the Year award is presented annually to a CA who embodies the spirit of community volunteerism. And, while volunteerism is a proud and renowned character trait of our Nova Scotia culture, what might be less known is the vast number of Chartered Accountants who graciously donate their time and expertise to making a difference throughout the province.

With more than 80,000 CAs and 13,000 students from across Canada and Bermuda – and more than 2,000 in Nova Scotia – the CA profession is the most prominent accounting designation in Canada. According to CICA’s annual analysis of the *Globe & Mail’s Report on Business Top 1000 Companies*, 59.9% of the chief financial officers in the 2011 ROB 1000 are CAs. Other leadership positions frequently held by CAs include chair (11.3%), CEO (10.9%), president (12.0%), secretary (14.5%) and chief operating officer (6.7%).

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Owen will be presented with his 2011 CA of the Year Award today, at the Institute’s annual Members Luncheon, which takes place at the Halifax Harbourfront Marriott Hotel, where guest speaker **Bill MacKinnon**, FCA, Chair, Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) Board of Directors, will greet the Province’s newest Uniform Evaluation (UFE) graduates.

Contact: ICANS
Phone: 902-425-3291
E-mail: communication@icans.ns.ca