

MEDIA RELEASE

Career Decisions Matter Nova Scotia CA Student Scores Gold Medal for Eastern Canada

For Immediate Release

December 2, 2011

Reaching the top has never felt so good! Just ask **Rebekah Melvin** from Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, who wrote the national 2011 Uniform Evaluation (UFE) -- the final academic ascent in becoming a Chartered Accountant – and is listed on the 2011 Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) National Honour Roll, placing first among her peers in Eastern Canada and receiving the Chartered Accountants of Canada Gold Medal for the highest standing in Eastern Canada on the 2011 UFE.

“On behalf of Nova Scotia CAs, I’d like to offer Rebekah congratulations on her very successful UFE results,” says **Michele Wood-Tweel**, FCA, CEO and Executive Director, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia (ICANS). “There’s no question that the UFE is among the most challenging professional exams in the world and to achieve regional and national recognition for one’s outstanding performance is a career highlight, one that Rebekah will surely cherish.”

Rebekah was among the 50 Nova Scotia CA students who received word today that they passed the 2011 UFE, giving them an edge for continued success.

“As future CAs, our graduates have the superior financial expertise, plus the strategic thinking, business insight and leadership skills for a successful career in business, government, education or in the non-profit community,” says Wood-Tweel.

CICA President & CEO **Kevin Dancey**, FCA, congratulated the students, adding: “This marks a significant milestone for these ambitious students who chose a challenging career path that can offer a lifetime of rewards. They should be proud of their accomplishment. Canada’s CA profession carries an influential voice globally and features a culture of career-long learning.”

Becoming a CA is the result of instruction, experience and evaluation. Along with a university degree, CAs must undergo a demanding and diverse professional training program administered in Nova Scotia through the Atlantic School of Chartered Accountancy (ASCA). Students also benefit from hands-on practical experience, working with approved CA Training Offices. And finally, they must pass the UFE, which sets the standard for entrance into Canada’s CA profession.

“The CA qualification program is recognized for its ability to prepare students for a career in business,” explains Wood-Tweel. “By providing the highest level training along with strong mentoring, it develops professionals who have a unique combination of integrity and expertise. Becoming a CA offers incredible opportunities and a rewarding career.”

With more than 78,000 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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This year’s CA graduates will be honored at the Institute’s Convocation ceremony on February 11, 2012 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. For more information on Nova Scotia CAs, please visit ICANS’ website at www.icans.ns.ca.

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