

E-SCAN is a regular newsletter distributed electronically as a means of maintaining timely communication of, and encouraging a dialogue on, topics relevant to Chartered Accountants and students of the Nova Scotia Institute. Copies of recent issues can be obtained from the Institute website at [www.icans.ns.ca](http://www.icans.ns.ca).

## PD PLANNING—WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Now that you've received your **2004 Fall/Winter Professional Development** brochure, it's time to choose which courses/sessions best support your learning needs. Once again, we've worked to create a high quality, cost-effective program relevant to our membership's diverse needs. Of course, your best value is to purchase a passport, which provides most full-day seminars for as low as \$110. But hurry — the **deadline to purchase passports is Friday, October 22** and seminars fill up fast! For more info, please contact **Kathie Slaunwhite** ([kslaunwhite@icans.ns.ca](mailto:kslaunwhite@icans.ns.ca)) or **Soula Keramaris** ([skeramaris@icans.ns.ca](mailto:skeramaris@icans.ns.ca)) at (902) 425-3291. Learning has never been easier or more affordable!

## RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING CAs

Few would disagree that CAs are proficient business leaders. However, outside the profession, how many recognize the significant time and expertise you and your colleagues willingly devote to support Nova Scotia charities and community organizations? Well hopefully, lots! And, we're also hoping that they'll take the time to nominate some community-minded CAs for our **2004 Ross L. Towler CA of the Year Award**. Of course, ICANS' members may nominate their fellow CAs for this award and, while you're at it, why not forward some names to the Honours Committee for our 2004 FCA designation process! Nomination forms for both awards were mailed to members in August and they are also posted on the ICANS website ([www.icans.ns.ca](http://www.icans.ns.ca)). **Deadline for the CA of the Year Award is Sept. 17th and FCA Nomination is Sept. 24th.** So come on . . . instead of just thinking about what an outstanding CA your colleague is, tell us about it because you know . . . actions speak louder than words!

## 2004 ETHICAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Whether you're interested in hearing what corporate governance guru Dr. Richard Leblanc has to say about boards of directors, or you'd rather debate ethical dilemmas with Dr. Cathy Driscoll and Margaret McKee, there is something for everyone at the **2004 Ethical Leadership Summit**, being held in Halifax, **September 20-21**. Presented by CMA Canada, the Summit (of which ICANS is a presenting sponsor) will offer business leaders the opportunity to meet and discuss issues related to ethical decision-making. Plus, you'll even get to share a laugh over the topic with **comedian Rick Mercer**. And, even if you didn't qualify for the early bird registration rate, the cost is only \$400 and openings are still available. For more information or to register, click on to [2004\\_Ethical\\_Leadership\\_Summit\\_Brochure.pdf](#) or call **Leslie Murphy** at (902) 422-5836 ext. 23.

## MERGER PROPOSAL UPDATE

After a busy summer of talks regarding the proposed merger between CAs and CMAs, the issue remains a primary focus for the profession. To that end, you can still forward your feedback directly to ICANS via Executive Director Lauchie McKenzie, FCA, at [mergertalk@icans.ns.ca](mailto:mergertalk@icans.ns.ca) or call (902) 425-3291. In addition, various Provincial Institute websites (links are available on the ICANS website) are offering information for your review, as is the CICA at [http://www.cica.ca/index.cfm/ci\\_id/20170/la\\_id/1.htm](http://www.cica.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/20170/la_id/1.htm). This site also includes a series of FAQs at [http://www.cica.ca/index.cfm/ci\\_id/21493/la\\_id/1.htm](http://www.cica.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/21493/la_id/1.htm), that reflect feedback received by ICANS and other Institutes from its members. For example, a special bulletin recently published by the Manitoba Institute included a number of FAQs, such as:

- **It appears that the proposed merger is a "done deal." Why wasn't this info shared with the membership before this?**

A decision to merge with the CMAs is not a "done deal." Any decision to merge must be ratified by the membership of both organizations in all jurisdictions across the country. Initially, discussions began last summer between the leadership of CICA and CMA Canada. At that point, discussions focused on how the professions might work together on strategic initiatives. These initial talks ultimately led to discussions of going beyond developing joint initiatives to the possibility of merging the two professions. After lengthy discussions throughout the fall, it was agreed by the leadership of CICA and CMA Canada that the possibility of a merger should be discussed with the leadership of the provincial organizations, as well as with the na-

### In This Issue:

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tional Boards of both professions. This took place in February 2004 and ultimately was shared with the Provincial Councils later that month. Between February and May, guiding principles, that were to be the basis of any merger, were finalized. It wasn't until the guiding principles were agreed to in May 2004 that it made sense to announce a possible merger and consult with the membership of each organization.

- **What are the benefits of merging for CAs?**

The work undertaken by the Strategic Planning Task Force over the past year has concluded that to achieve sustainable growth within the CA profession (the profession) needs to provide training opportunities for students outside of the traditional audit and assurance area. The so-called "funnel effect" has caused the profession to lose some of its market share in senior financial positions in industry and the public sector that (CAs) have traditionally dominated in the past. Merging with the CMAs would provide more timely access to a high level training program in strategic management, as well as the wealth of the intellectual capital that the CMAs have developed in recent years.

Again, for more FAQs, check out the CICA website and individual PICA sites like Manitoba. Meanwhile, we'd also like to remind you that work is progressing regarding the profession's **Strategic Planning process**, which has been endorsed by ICANS Council. As mentioned in the last issue of *E-SCAN*, the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Task Force has prepared a short paper on the relationship between the Strategic Plan and the proposed CA-CMA merger, which you can download by clicking on [Merger with the CMA's: Is it Consistent with the CA Strategic Vision](#). Other info can be found on [CAs, how they are perceived by Employers and Clients](#) and [What we heard from CAs](#).

## THE FUTURE OF ACCOUNTING STANDARDS IN CANADA

Significant decisions on the future of accounting standards in Canada will be taken in the next few months. To this end, the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) is seeking your views. Some of the issues under discussion include:

- With the increasing globalization of the world economies, particularly for investors and capital flows, what role, if any, should Canadian accounting standards have?
- Does harmonization with US GAAP inevitably result in US-style detailed rules?
- What role, if any, should Canadian standard-setters play in the development of high-quality internationally accepted accounting standards?

The ASB is particularly interested in hearing your views on what would best serve the interests of those who use Canadian companies, as well as financial reports, thereby reducing the cost of capital. In addition, a roundtable discussion will be held on **September 10th** in Halifax (starting at 8:30 am). To attend, send an e-mail to [Florita.dinglasan@cica.ca](mailto:Florita.dinglasan@cica.ca) and attach some brief contact info. Also, further details, including a discussion paper and links to background information may be obtained from the ASB's website at [http://www.acsbcanada.org/index.cfm/ci\\_id/21832/la\\_id/1.htm](http://www.acsbcanada.org/index.cfm/ci_id/21832/la_id/1.htm). Or, contact **Wenda Bennett**, CA, ICANS' Director of Professional Standards, at (902) 425-3291.

## MEDIA WATCH

As highly respected business leaders, CAs are often sought for their opinions on a variety of issues. In August 2004, the following ICANS members graciously volunteered their time and expertise in responding to media requests:

**Bob Shaw**, FCA, President, Shaw Group Ltd., Halifax  
**Lauchie MacKenzie**, FCA, Executive Director, ICANS

**Roy Salmon**, CA, Nova Scotia Auditor General  
**John MacKinnon**, CA, Professor, UCCB, Sydney

If you're interested in sharing your expertise with Nova Scotians through the media, let us know! In particular, the *Halifax Herald* features a weekly *Business Forum* column, which has proven to be a great way to showcase CAs as professional business leaders. For details, contact Joy Barkhouse at (902) 425-3291 or at [communication@icans.ns.ca](mailto:communication@icans.ns.ca).



## CORRECTION NOTICE



FYI — The Institute would like to draw to your attention that the 2004-05 **Executive Council appointment ad** published in the *Chronicle Herald* on August 7, 2004, incorrectly identified the Executive positions of Gordon Moore, CA and Don Flinn, CA. A photo featuring their correct titles is shown here at left and in response to our error, a special "Correction Notice" was published in the *Herald* on Thursday, August 12 and again on Saturday, August 14.

## HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS

**Carrie E. Cussons, CA**, previously with The CCL Group, is now VP Finance with the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation in Halifax.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Deric F. C. Burton, CA**, passed away on August 5, 2004. Mr. Burton was President of the Nova Scotia Institute from 1955-56.

## Career OPPORTUNITIES ON THE WEB

Did you know that career postings are added on a weekly basis to the Institute's website ([www.icans.ns.ca](http://www.icans.ns.ca))? Log on for details about the following postings:

**Senior Consultant/Manager, Risk Management Consulting** — Protiviti  
**Controller** — Spherion Staffing Solutions  
**Manager, Accounting Standards Compliance** — Halifax, Montreal or Toronto based  
**Manager, Corporate Compliance** — Halifax or Toronto based  
**Financial Standards Manager** — Staffing Strategies International, Halifax  
**International Controller** — Major Drilling Group International Inc., Moncton

Note: Other career opportunities, together with valuable information and guidance on career counseling, etc., can be found at CA Source, on the CICA Website ([www.cica.ca](http://www.cica.ca)).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are also posted regularly on the ICANS website under the Members menu. Currently, the following opportunity is available:

**Accountant** — Child Find Nova Scotia  
**Accountant/Accounting Student** — St. Paul's United Church  
**Chapter Treasurer/VP Finance** — International Association of Business Communicators (IABC)

## REMI NDER — I MPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **2004 Ethical Leadership Summit**  
September 20—21, 2004
- **UFE**  
September 21—23 ,2004
- **2004 Fall/Winter PD Passport Deadline**  
October 22, 2004
- **2004 Fall/Winter PD Week**  
November 15-19, 2004
- **UFE Release**  
December 3, 2004
- **Members' Luncheon**  
December 17, 2004
- **Convocation**  
February 12, 2005
- **Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament, Chester**  
June 6, 2005

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