CONVOCATION 2010

On Saturday, February 13, 2010, more than 700 people (members and invited guests) gathered at the World Trade & Convention Centre in Halifax to congratulate the province’s newest UFE graduates and FCA recipients. Clad in silver drapery, festive balloons and twinkling lights, the Trade Centre’s Grand Ballroom was the perfect setting for the Institute’s annual Convocation. In addition to a lovely meal, inspiring speeches and a post-ceremony dance, guests joined together to celebrate what is the beginning of our graduates’ careers and the cumulative achievements of our FCAs. Stay tuned for more Convocation highlights in our March E-SCAN.

FRAME YOUR ACHIEVEMENT . . . Earning your CA designation is a personal and professional milestone, so why not ‘frame’ the moment to last forever! It’s quick and easy — without tools and fuss, you can have your certificate mounted in a high quality, Canadian-made polished gold-colored, walnut wood frame (colored or dark stained), that features an elegant border mat and gold foil stamp of the profession’s logo.

WITH THIS RING . . . Show your pride in being a CA by wearing a custom-made ring. Displaying a stylized ‘CA’, this unique ring has been around for more than 25 years and remains a highly recognizable symbol of our prestigious profession. CA rings are available in either 10k or 14k, yellow or white gold, in both men’s and women’s designs/sizes.

For details re: frames and rings, visit: http://www.icans.ns.ca/newsandpublications.asp?cmPageID=151.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE CICA HANDBOOKS

The CICA Handbook – Accounting

This Handbook has been restructured to implement the Accounting Standards Board strategy for adopting different sets of standards for different categories of entities.

The electronic Handbook is divided into the following parts:

- Preface to the CICA Handbook – Accounting
- Part I – International Financial Reporting Standards
- Part II – Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises
- Part III – Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations (availability TBA)
- Part IV – Accounting Standards for Pension Plans (availability TBA)
- Part V – complete set of existing Handbook contents

Not-for-Profit Organizations and Pension Plans will continue to follow the existing Handbook Part V until their accounting standards have been finalized and issued in the future.

The CICA Handbook – Assurance

This Handbook has also been restructured to reflect the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board’s adoption of International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as Canadian Auditing Standards (CASs). The CASs will come into effect for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 14, 2010.

The new Canadian Auditing Standard on Quality Control (CSQC 1) became effective as of December 15, 2009. All firms providing assurance services are required to implement CSQC 1. Visit the CICA’s dedicated website at www.cica.ca/CAS for further information.

The electronic Handbook is organized into two parts:

- Part I – Preface to the CICA Handbook – Assurance, CSQC 1, Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance Engagements, 36 Canadian Auditing Standards and retained Sections and Guidelines (applicable to engagements other than audits of financial statements); and
- Part II – complete set of the existing Handbook contents.
OPTIMISM ABOUT THE CANADIAN ECONOMY HAS STABILIZED AMONG EXECUTIVE CAs

On January 27, 2010, the CICA issued a media release stating that, according to the most recent CICA/RBC Business Monitor, conducted during the fourth quarter of 2009, optimism about the Canadian economy is holding steady among executive CAs. The media release went on to say that after two consecutive quarters of significant growth in optimism, the final quarter of 2009 was virtually unchanged from the previous quarter. In fact, 48 per cent of respondents expressed optimism in the economy over the next 12 months, compared to 46 per cent from Q3 2009. Of the remaining Q4 2009 respondents, 39 per cent were neutral, while 13 per cent were pessimistic about the year ahead.

Furthermore, optimism levels are dramatically higher than they were roughly a year ago. In the fourth quarter of 2008, only two per cent of surveyed CAs were optimistic about the economy and only four per cent indicated optimism in the first quarter of 2009.

“The Business Monitor results indicate that many executive CAs believe the Canadian economy is improving, but they remain cautiously optimistic about this being a period of sustainable recovery,” said CICA President and CEO Kevin Dancey, FCA. “It is encouraging that optimism levels have grown well beyond where they were a year ago, because companies now have a better understanding of the challenges associated with today’s economy.”

The CICA/RBC Business Monitor also shows positive projections for the next 12 months relating to revenues (+3.3 per cent), profits (+3.2 per cent) and employment numbers (+0.8 per cent). In the same quarter a year ago, projections called for decreases in all three categories.

“Canadian businesses have shown strength despite the challenging economic climate, with 23 per cent of respondents stating that their company’s profits did not decline during the recession,” adds Shauneen Bruder, Executive Vice-President, Business and Commercial Banking, RBC. “Companies that had the proper foresight with stress-tested business plans, are in a better position to deal with difficult times. Canadian companies that keep an eye on the future while setting realistic and achievable goals in the present, can quickly react to both challenges and new opportunities for growth.”

The CICA/RBC Business Monitor is issued quarterly, based on a survey conducted by the CICA. The report draws upon business insights of CAs in leadership positions in privately and publicly held companies across Canada. For this Q4 2009 report, emailed surveys were completed by 391 CAs of 4,118 identified by the CICA as holding senior positions (CFOs, CEOs and COOs). The response rate was nine per cent, with a margin of error associated with this type of study at ± 4.0 per cent, with a confidence level of 95 per cent. The survey was conducted December 1-17, 2009.

The CICA/RBC Business Monitor (Q4 2009) is part of an international initiative. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) in the United States and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) in the United Kingdom also undertake quarterly studies that tap the insights of members in senior positions to provide a barometer of economic activity in their nations and as a basis for future comparative analysis across countries. A background document is available online at www.cicarbcbusinessmonitor.com. For more info, please contact Tobin Lambie, CICA Media, at (416) 204-3228 or at tobin.lambie@cica.ca.

LIABILITY INSURANCE REMINDER

The Institute’s bylaws require that every member engaged in the practice of public accounting have liability insurance that meets the specified minimums. See ICANS By-Law 68 at www.icans.ns.ca.

If working in a firm, you should make sure that you are covered by the firms’ policy to protect yourself. Members working on a contract basis for a public accounting firm should make sure that the firm they work for has included them in their professional liability insurance coverage.

If you have any questions, please contact Wenda Bennett at wbennett@icans.ns.ca or at 425-3291 ext. 26.

NOVA SCOTIA CA COMPETING IN THE 2010 BRIER

Stuart MacLean, CA, Partner, Levy Casey Carter MacLean, is part of the Nova Scotia team playing in the 81st Edition of the Canadian Men’s Curling Championship, March 6 to 14, 2010 at the Metro Centre in Halifax. The 2010 Tim Hortons Brier will mark the sixth time Halifax has hosted this event. Pictured at left (standing L to R) are: Philip Crowell (lead); Kent Smith (second); Stuart MacLean (third); and Ian Fitzner-Leblanc (skip).
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

**IFRS Bulletin for Lawyers, Bankers and Investors**
With IFRS replacing current Canadian accounting standards for publicly accountable enterprises in 2011, the time is quickly approaching for lawyers, lenders and investors to gain an understanding of the new language of accounting. The change to IFRSs will not have a direct economic effect on the operations of a company; however, it will change a company’s reported financial position and operating results, in turn affecting financial ratios and other financial analysis calculated using information from these reports.

In this IFRS-related bulletin, staff at the Accounting Standards Board reminds lawyers, bankers and investors that they should start now to anticipate the implications on contracts and investment decisions that incorporate these types of financial tools to assess the health of a company. Check out *The Lawyer, the Banker, the Investor and International Financial Reporting Standards* at www.cica.ca/ifrs/bulletin9 or on the CICA’s designated IFRS website, www.cica.ca/IFRS under the IFRS Transition Resources button.

**IFRS Podcasts**
The CICA is launching a series of podcast interviews with Canadian companies making the transition to international accounting standards. Their experience may provide insights that help your organization implement a seamless transition.

- **Episode 1: IFRS & Property, Plant and Equipment at Marslex Inc.**

  This medium-sized public company’s IFRS transition plan pays significant attention to Property, Plant and Equipment, which makes up over 50% of its total assets. Listen to the 17-minute podcast online or download the file and listen where and when it is most convenient for you. Visit the CICA’s designated IFRS website and www.cica.ca/IFRS and click on “From the Trenches – IFRS infocast” on the top right-hand side of the page.

**IFRS Presentation**
The CICA is offering *Get to the Point*, a web-based Power Point/audio presentation that provides practical tips to cut through the complexities of the transition to IFRS for small and medium-sized companies that are adopting IFRSs. *Get to the Point* outlines IFRS transition steps and includes a transition work plan. A free download is available at www.cica.ca/ifrs/gettothepoint.

- **Session 1:** Transition basics & focusing your effort (30 minutes)
- **Session 2:** Practical and Effective IFRS Accounting Policy Analysis (30 minutes)

For more info and resources on standards change, visit the CICA’s Canadian Standards in Transition website at www.cica.ca/TRANSITION.

**IFRSs AVAILABLE IN HANDBOOK**
International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) are now available in Part I of the CICA Handbook - Accounting. IFRSs will be required for publicly accountable enterprises and government business enterprises for periods beginning on or after January 1, 2011. They will also be available for any entity within the scope of the CICA Handbook – Accounting that chooses to adopt IFRSs such as not-for-profit organizations and private enterprises. To access, visit: https://www.knotia.ca/kStore/Catalogue/ProductDetails.cfm?productID=8

**TRANSITION TO IFRSs – COMMUNICATING THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGEOVER**
**Talking IFRS with your investors** — Your adoption of IFRSs could result in a myriad of changes to your financial statements in 2011 – you do not want to catch your investors by surprise. A new Canadian Performance Reporting Board publication discusses how to summarize the effects of the changeover in the MD&A. *Transition to IFRSs – Communicating the Impact of the Changeover* provides examples of ways to provide a succinct MD&A discussion of the impact of the changes in a way that highlights significant differences, including how changes will impact your future financial reporting. To access, visit: http://www.cica.ca/ifrs/ifrs-transition-resources/docs-&-files/item34420.pdf
UPDATED INDEPENDENCE GUIDE NOW ON-LINE
The independence standard, which is codified in Rule of Professional Conduct 204, took effect in 2004. It has essentially remained unchanged since then, other than a 2005 revision to address mutual funds, which took effect in 2006.

The standard is lengthy and the application in a number of circumstances generates questions. For instance, one area of inquiry is regarding the application of the independence standard to the ability to provide assurance services or compilation services when the practitioner is also assisting with the preparation of accounting records and/or journal entries, as well as related disclosure requirements.

A more recent change and clarification was made in June 2009, when Council approved an additional Council Interpretation to Rule 204.8 - Independence - Disclosure of Impairment of Independence. New paragraph 4 states, "For the purposes of Rule 204.8 the preparation of accounting records or journal entries in connection with a compilation engagement is not an activity that requires disclosure in the Notice to Reader unless such preparation involves complex transactions as contemplated by paragraph 143 of the Council Interpretations to Rules 204.1 to 204.6".

To assist members, the Guide to New Canadian Independence Standard, prepared in 2003 to provide guidance when the Rule was first released, has recently been updated to cover additional areas that have been the subject of inquiries to practice advisors. These include:
- The disclosure requirements for compilation engagements;
- Communication requirements – including requirements by members and students to communicate within the firm any interests, relationships, or provision of services precluded by Rule 204; as well as requirements by firms to communicate matters relating to independence to clients; and
- The impact of the adoption of International Standards on Auditing (ISA) as Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS).

An online version of the Guide to Canadian Independence Standard (2009 Update) that links references to the Rule of Professional Conduct 204 and the related Council interpretation to the ICANS Members’ Handbook is now available on the Institute’s website at http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/GUIDEtoCanadianIndependenceStandard2009Update.pdf. If you have any questions, please contact Wenda Bennett, CA, ICANS’ Director of Professional Standards, at wbennett@icans.ns.ca or by calling (902) 425-3291 ext. 26.

ICANS RECRUITMENT EVENTS
On January 13, 2010, ICANS members Myles Johnson, CA, and Dale Saunders, CA CBV, Partners of Hemming Weir Casey Inc. in Truro, represented the Institute at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College’s (NSAC) annual career fair. They were also joined by ICANS President Susan McIsaac, FCA, Partner, McIsaac Darragh Chartered Accountants, Amherst, who is an alumnus of NSAC alumni. We sincerely thank Myles, Dale and Susan for volunteering their time at this event. While a career in chartered accountancy may not, generally speaking, be ‘top of mind’ for most NSAC students, ICANS’ presence at the career fair helped to promote the CA profession and the valuable role our members play in the operation of any type of business. In speaking with Myles, Dale and Susan, students gained important insight into the kind of skills and experiences that will best help them with career planning and they learned about the broad spectrum of opportunities available in the field of chartered accountancy.

In addition, on February 4, 2010, ICANS members Joanne Dykeman, CA, Controller, Halifax Port Authority, and recent UFE graduate Linda MacKay, CA, who works with the Office of the Auditor General of Nova Scotia, represented the Institute at Mount Saint Vincent University’s 2010 Annual Business & Tourism Dinner. The dinner was part of the Business & Tourism’s 35th Annual Conference, entitled, "Leadership, Growth and Effectiveness - A Connected Circle." Well-known local actor, humorist writer and motivational speaker Bill Carr was the dinner’s keynote speaker and guests such as Joanne and Linda - who are Mount alumni - were seated with students to allow for networking. In addition, ICANS member Jill Devanney, CA, an audit professional with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, also attended the event as a faculty member of MSVU. A sincere thank you to Joanne, Linda and Jill for their part in promoting the CA profession to MSVU students.

RECRUITMENT BROCHURES
If you are interested in having copies of ICANS’ Recruitment Brochure to distribute to students, contact Cindy Mombourquette at cmombourquette@icans.ns.ca or by calling (902) 425-3291 (ext. 21)

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PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING BOARD ISSUES EXPOSURE DRAFT ON AMENDMENTS RESULTING FROM ADOPTION OF IFRSs IN CANADA

This Exposure Draft explains that the PSAB will not override International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) for those government organizations adopting IFRS and outlines what amendments are being made to the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook as a result.

“Government organizations that adhere to IFRSs should not be subject to additional requirements imposed by PSAB,” said Tim Beauchamp, Director, Public Sector Accounting. “Overriding IFRSs will reduce the understandability of the primary source of generally accepted accounting principles being applied.”

To view the Exposure Draft, visit: www.psab-ccsp.ca. Comments must be received by February 19, 2010.

PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING BOARD ISSUES EXPOSURE DRAFT ON FIRST-TIME ADOPTION OF PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

This Exposure Draft explains the general requirements for government organizations adopting the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook for the first time. It also explains aspects of the Handbook that need not be adopted on a retroactive basis by government organizations and parts of the Handbook that are to be adopted by government organizations on a going forward basis only.

“In some instances, retroactive application of the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook by a government organization can be onerous,” said Jim Keates, a Principal with PSAB. “This standard would provide limited exceptions to the general requirement that the Handbook be adopted on a retroactive basis with restatement.”

To view the Exposure Draft, visit: www.psab-ccsp.ca. Comments must be received by March 25, 2010.

ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD EXPOSURE DRAFT

The Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) issued proposed revisions to an IFRS on recognition and measurement of liabilities in IAS 37. These revisions apply to liabilities for warranties, legal disputes, business restructuring and similar items. In addition, more liabilities are likely to be recognized in financial statements. That said, members are encouraged to assess the revised measurement guidance developed, including how uncertainties are to be reflected in the measurement.

“The proposals to remove the probability recognition threshold in IAS 37 and clarifications to the measurement requirements will significantly change how entities account for liabilities,” said Rebecca Villman, the AcSB Principal responsible for the project. “The proposals will result in a standard applicable to entities using IFRSs in Canada and are expected to be effective no earlier than January 1, 2012.

To view the Exposure Draft, visit: www.acsbcanada.org. Comments are due by April 12, 2010.
CICA'S NEW IFRS ON-LINE COURSE
The countdown is underway as Canada moves closer to adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in 2011. To lead the transition, CAs and other financial professionals will need a solid grounding in changes associated with the changeover.

Introduction to IFRS - Implications for Canadian Business
CICA's new on-line program on IFRS provides CAs and others with a basic introduction to IFRS and the implications for Canadian business. For those who need to develop further expertise, the course provides a foundation from which to self-assess and pursue additional learning. In particular, it addresses:

- Why Canada is moving to IFRS
- A taste of how IFRSs compare with current Canadian GAAP
- Insights into when, what and how to gather the relevant data in the lead-up to IFRS implementation
- Strategies for managing the implementation process.

Easy to understand and easy to use, the course was developed in modules that allow you to learn about IFRS in your own time and at your own pace, focusing on the elements most relevant to the transition phase. Begin the course here. It's free for those in Canada and Bermuda, and for CAs it's eligible for CPD credit. For more on IFRS education resources click here.

CFA ATLANTIC CANADA 2010 FORECAST DINNER
The Atlantic Canada CFA Society is holding its 19th Annual Forecast Dinner on April 15, 2010 in the Schooner Room at Casino Nova Scotia. The 2010 forecaster is Don Drummond, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, TD Bank Financial Group, and Benjamin Tal, Senior Economist, CIBC World Markets, will be back to defend his 2009 forecast. Registration for this event is on a 'first pay, first serve' basis. To register or for more info, please visit cfaatlantic@cfaatlantic.com by March 31st.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

UPCOMING CICA PD OPPORTUNITIES
- Feb. 25 - 26 in Calgary - CICA Midyear Commodity Tax Symposium — http://cpd.cica.ca/MidyearCTS/
- Mar. 30 - Apr. 1 in Toronto - Canadian Conference on IT Audit, Governance & Security — http://www.cpd.cica.ca/ITAudit/about.cfm
- May 31 - Jun. 3 in Toronto - IFRS Immersion 1 Course — http://cpd.cica.ca/IFRSImmersion/about.cfm
- Jun. 6 - 11 in Niagara-on-the-Lake — CICA In-depth GST Course — http://cpd.cica.ca/IDGST/about.cfm

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

As respected business leaders, CAs are often sought for their opinions on issues. To this end...

Mike Casey, CA:CBV, Partner, Hemming Weir Casey Inc., Halifax and Mark Crossman, CA, President, M&A Canada Inc., Halifax, were featured in the Chronicle Herald’s NSB10 Review & Forecast, Business & Finance supplement (Jan. 25th, E6 and E4, respectively).

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Marie Mullally, FCA, President & CEO, Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation, on winning a 2009 Women of Excellence Award from the Progress Club. Marie won in the “Management and the Professions” division.

Jim Trussler, FCA, who was part of the team representing LST Energy that earned a first-place ‘zone’ winner prize in InNOVACorp’s 1 - 3 Technology Start-Up Competition. The competition identifies and supports high-potential early stage knowledge-based companies and encourages entrepreneurial activity across the province. Each of the five zone winners received $100,000 in cash and in-kind business building services.

NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals were admitted to membership through affiliation:

Gary Booth
Adele Buchanan

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

* ICANS/FEI Business Dinner
  February 24, 2010 - Halifax Club

* ICANS Annual Meeting & Golf Tournament
  June 14, 2010 - Chester Golf Course

CARER OPPORTUNITIES ON THE WEB

Employment and volunteer opportunities can be found at http://www.icans.ns.ca/events.asp?cmPageID=192.

Check out the following:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Accountant - The SCRI Society
- Treasurer - Chisholm Youth Services
- Treasurer - Kidney Foundation of Canada, Nova Scotia Branch
- Board Members - Canadian Cancer Society, Nova Scotia Division

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Director of Finance - Halifax, NS
- Senior Financial Accountant - Dartmouth, NS
- Corporate Reporting & Policy Specialist - Halifax, NS
- Manager, Corporate Accounting - Halifax, NS
- Accounting Manager - Halifax, NS
- Controller - Halifax, NS
- Senior Project Manager - Halifax, NS
- Controller - Halifax, NS
- Internal Audit III (Audit Manager), Finance (Internal Audit Centre) - Halifax, NS
- CA or UFE Finalist - Halifax, NS
- CA - Dartmouth, NS
- VP, Corporate Services - Moncton, NB
- Director of Taxation - Halifax, NS
- Senior Financial Analyst, Finance - Moncton, NB
- Professional Staff Accountant - New Glasgow, NS
- Senior Staff Accountant - Kentville, NS
- Staff Accountant - Sydney, NS

Note: Other career opportunities, together with valuable information and guidance on career counseling, etc., can be found at “CA Source,” on the CICA website.

E-SCAN is a monthly publication of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia, distributed to members and students by e-mail.

Copies of E-SCAN are available on the Institute’s website at www.icans.ns.ca

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