UNITING THE CANADIAN ACCOUNTING PROFESSION

As communicated to all members on May 24, 2011, Canada’s Chartered Accountants (CAs) and Certified Management Accountants (CMAs) are exploring the merits and feasibility of uniting our national and provincial organizations. The leadership of both organizations believe that a united profession would be more efficient and effective than the status quo; more relevant, both at home and abroad; better able to enhance the support and services it provides to all members; and, better able to protect and serve the public interest.

To bring the two organizations together, the creation of a new designation is being considered — the Chartered Professional Accountant or CPA — and a new common qualification program. By combining the strengths and expertise of both organizations, the uniquely-Canadian CPA will be equally strong for financial and management accounting, and it is expected to evolve into an internationally recognized business credential.

Lessons have been learned from previous attempts to merge professional bodies. The concept being considered does not require either accounting organization to issue its designation to members of the other; nor would any member be required to give up their current designation. To be clear, a CA would still be a CA and a CMA would still be a CMA.

However, to be successful, we must ultimately evolve to a single designation. The transition to using the CPA alone would be complex and an abrupt change would not be in the best interests of members or the public. The CA and CMA designations hold significant meaning across Canada and around the world, and it will take time to promote the CPA brand, so that it fully represents the best of both designations. As such, we are contemplating a transition period of approximately 10 years, during which members would use the new CPA designation in conjunction with their existing CA and CMA designations.

Before proceeding any further, we want to hear your point of view. To this end, there will be a three-month consultation process within our membership. We are also engaging other stakeholders, such as provincial and federal governments, regulators, employers, academic institutions and students who aspire to a career in business, so they can contribute to the new direction of the profession.

Share Your Point of View
That said, please visit www.CPACanada.ca — this interactive website contains regularly updated information, forums where you can ‘discuss’ items with your colleagues, and other feedback mechanisms to ensure that your point of view is heard. In addition, you can watch a video presentation by CICA’s President & CEO Kevin Dancey, FCA, and one by The Society of Management Accountants of Canada’s President & CEO Joy Thomas, FCMA. You may also call 1-855-747-2654 to leave a comment, or, as always, you can contact ICANS’ CEO Michele Wood-Tweed, FCA, at (902) 425-3291 ext. 22 or at mwood-tweed@icans.ns.ca.

In addition, provincial dialogues will take place via town hall meetings. Town Hall meetings in Nova Scotia will be held on June 15th, 5 to 7 pm, at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront (click here to register: http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/openhouse-registration-hfx.pdf) and on June 20th, 8:30-10:30am at the Chester Golf & Country Club (click here to register: http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/openhouse-registration-hfx2.pdf).

Additional Town Hall meetings will be scheduled in the coming weeks in various locations in Nova Scotia and we will keep you posted with complete details and registration forms.

DEADLINE REMINDERS

• June 15, 2011 is the deadline to submit requests for fee reductions.
• June 30, 2011 is the deadline to submit resignations.

Note: Failure to pay the Annual Fees or file the PD Report by June 30th can lead to suspension from membership. Questions? Please contact Danielle Roode at droode@icans.ns.ca or at (902) 425-3291 ext. 31.

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ICANS’ ANNUAL MEETING, GOLF TOURNAMENT & BARBEQUE

ICANS’ Annual Meeting will be held on June 20, 2011 at the Chester Golf & Country Club. The Meeting will begin at 11 am in the Boardroom (located on the second floor of the Club House) and will conclude in time for golfing members to prepare for tee-off. Open to all ICANS members and CA students, the cost to golf is $130 per person and remember . . . the deadline for registration is June 6 and only the first 124 paid players will be accepted - no cancellations after this deadline. Individual or team registrations are accepted; to access a registration form, click on: http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/GolfRegistrationForm.pdf.

On the day of the tournament, registration will begin at 12:15 pm and the four-person scramble shotgun starts at 1 pm. Note: if you want a golf cart, please make arrangements prior to the tournament with the Chester Pro Shop by calling (902) 275-4543. The Institute’s steak barbeque and prize presentations will follow at approximately 6:30 pm. Prizes will be awarded for team gross and net, long drive, closest to the hole, etc. For more info, contact Cindy Mombourquette, ICANS’ Golf Committee Staff Representative, at (902) 425-3291 ext. 21 or at cmombourquette@icans.ns.ca or Jack Gorrill, CA, ICANS Golf Committee Chair, at (902) 420-4827.

ICANS SPONSORS VP FINANCE AWARD AT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT GALA
On May 1, 2011, ICANS’ CEO Michele Wood-Tweel, FCA, attended the Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia’s (JA) 42nd Annual Awards & Recognition Gala at Saint Mary’s University, where she presented at $500 scholarship award to Cole Clarke. Cole is a grade 12 student at North Nova Education Centre in New Glasgow. As part of JA’s Company Program, Cole was elected VP Finance from approximately 20 other students in his fictitious company, HEXAR Sleeves, which produced reusable sleeves for hot and cold beverage cups.

Drawing from the idea of cardboard sleeves, the students bought different material and sewed a pattern together with recycled denim. After insulating the material with recycled fleece, students added a piece of Velcro to create a “Hexar Sleeve.” As one of the most challenging offices in the Company Program, the role of VP Finance is to plan, budget, prepare and control all the finances of the JA company and to be responsible to the directors for the on-going interpretation of the company finances. By the end of the competition, Cole’s company had sold 166 sleeves for a total profit of $825.00.

In a media release issued by JA Nova Scotia, the organization’s President & CEO Lynn Coveyduck, offered congratulations to the achievers and advisors, adding: “We’re so proud of the students who are a part of Junior Achievement and it wouldn’t be possible to deliver our programs without the help of dedicated volunteers. Each achiever should be honoured these volunteers took their time to teach and mentor them over this school year.”

The JA Company Program — A Student Venture, is an 18-week, curriculum-linked, student-centred and skills-focused program. It inspires high school students to understand the role of business in our society by creating an enterprise of their own. This year, 22 companies were created across Nova Scotia with the help of JA and its volunteers. That said, JA is always on the hunt for top-notch business professionals to help deliver their programs to students eager to learn more about the world of business. If you are interested in becoming a JA volunteer, please visit: http://www.janovascotia.org/contactus.cfm or contact the JA’s President and CEO Lynn Coveyduck at (902) 454-4564 (ext. 223) or at lcoveyduck@janovascotia.org.

GUIDE FOR AUDITORS OF REGISTERED ELECTORAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS APPOINTED UNDER THE CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

To assist federal registered electoral district associations, official agents and auditors with respect to their audit responsibilities under the Canada Elections Act, the CICA has, since 2005, published a Guide for Auditors of Registered Electoral District Associations Appointed Under the Canadian Elections Act. The latest version of the Guide can be accessed from both the CICA website (http://www.cica.ca/election) and the Elections Canada website (http://www.elections.ca).

The Guide provides guidance on the audit of a registered electoral district association, including sample consent, engagement and representation letters, and a model auditor’s report. It summarizes the accounting and reporting requirements of the Canada Elections Act related to the Financial Transactions Return and provides steps to audit some key requirements. It also addresses accounting issues of particular interest to auditors related to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, and the Statement of Revenue and Expenses set out in Part 4 of the Financial Transactions Return.

The Guide has been updated to reflect Canadian Auditing Standards (CASs) effective for audits of financial statements and other historical financial information for periods ending on or after December 14, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Hélène Marcil, CA, at Helene.Marcil@cica.ca or at research.studies@cica.ca.
ICANS’ 2011 SPRING PD REGISTRATION
Now that you’ve had a chance to read through ICANS’ spring 2011 PD brochure and note the list of seminars, in-depth programs, courses and tools/resources available for learning, the next step is to register! Note: it’s important to register early, as low participation can result in a course being cancelled. To access a copy of ICANS’ Spring 2011 PD brochure, click on: http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/PDSpringBrochure.pdf. While the deadline has passed to purchase a spring 2011 PD passport, you can access a regular registration form by clicking on: http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/RegistrationRegularSpring.pdf. And, if you have any questions, please contact Danielle Roode (droode@icans.ns.ca) or Kathie Slaunwhite (kslaunwhite@icans.ns.ca) or call the Institute at (902) 425-3291. Here’s a peek at some of the courses being offered:

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<th>Seminar/Workshop</th>
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<td>Write with Confidence for Professionals</td>
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<td>Learning Payroll II</td>
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SOARING OPTIMISM AMONG EXECUTIVE CAs, POSITIVE EMPLOYMENT FORECASTS AND ANTICIPATED INNOVATION INVESTMENTS: CICA/RBC BUSINESS MONITOR

According to the latest CICA/RBC Business Monitor — issued May 17, 2011 — 64 per cent of executive CAs expressed optimism about the Canadian economy in the first quarter of 2011, marking a notable increase of 23 per cent over the previous quarter. Canadian interest rates and consumer confidence were the top two reasons cited among respondents for the surge in optimism to near record levels associated with the CICA/RBC Business Monitor. In addition, 66 per cent of respondents in the first quarter survey were optimistic about their company’s prospects over the next year, up 10 per cent from the previous quarter.

The good news for job seekers is that almost half (47 per cent) of respondents expect employment numbers to climb at their company over the next 12 months and 22 per cent are projecting increases of five per cent or more. Only 12 per cent of respondents anticipate that the number of employees in their company will drop, with most of the remaining respondents believing company employment numbers will remain unchanged.

“The employment prospects must be welcome news for the latest crop of university and college graduates looking to enter the workforce,” says CICA’s CEO Kevin Dancey, FCA. “One positive set of findings does not make a trend, but the results are encouraging, especially since executive CAs are feeling good about both the Canadian economy and their respective companies.”

The survey also found that companies are investing in innovation and the executive CAs expect to see increases in revenue and profits over the next year.

**Innovation:** Three quarters (75 per cent) of those surveyed indicated that their company has made changes to ensure that it performs well during periods of slow economic growth. Two-thirds say their company will make a significant investment in innovation over the next 12 months. **Revenue:** Seventy-three per cent of executive CAs expected their company’s revenues to increase in the next 12 months. This includes 24 per cent projecting revenue increases in 10 per cent or more. **Profit:** Roughly 7-in-10 (69 per cent) executive CAs indicated that their company’s profits will increase in the next 12 months, with 25 per cent projecting a profit increase of 10 per cent or more.

“These latest results reinforce the fact that Canadian companies are ready to seize opportunities for future growth and investment,” says Christianne Paris, VP, Business and Client Strategy, RBC. “The focus on investment in innovation is particularly promising, as this can be a key driver for opportunities in new markets.”

For the Q1 2011 survey, emailed surveys were completed by 351 CAs of 3,992 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 survey at +/- 5.2 per cent, with a confidence level of 95 per cent. A background document is available at www.cicarbcbusinessmonitor.com.
CPAB RELEASES ITS REPORT ON 2010 AUDIT INSPECTIONS

On April 18, 2011, the Canadian Public Accountability Board (CPAB) issued a media release to announce the results of its 2010 Audit Inspections Report. In particular, the report stated that Canadian audit firms must demonstrate a greater commitment to audit quality, including zero tolerance for audit deficiencies.

“In the seven years we have been inspecting firms that audit public companies, we have seen numerous examples of high-quality audit work,” said CPAB’s CEO, Brian Hunt, FCA. “In general, investors can have confidence in the integrity of public company financial statements that have been audited in Canada.”

However, audit quality is not uniformly high across all audits in all firms and, even for major firms, there can be occasional lapses that result in reduced audit quality, according to the CPAB release.

“Overall, we saw little improvement in audit quality from the year before,” Mr. Hunt said. “While audit work was generally sound, we found, in firms of all sizes, examples of inadequate audit work, ineffective audit engagement supervision and review, a lack of professional scepticism and working papers that did not fully describe the nature and extent of the audit work carried out.”

CPAB’s 2010 inspections also found several instances of poor or non-existent communications with audit committees. CPAB’s more serious findings led to additional audit work being required on some files and to the reissuing of a number of financial statements.

“Our 2010 inspection findings are cause for concern, given the potentially serious implications of any reduction in audit firms’ commitment to the continuous improvement of audit quality,” Mr. Hunt said. “While many firms’ performance is sound, overall we find too many audit deficiencies and more than we would see if firms uniformly had a commitment to zero tolerance for audit deficiencies.”

While these deficiencies do not always lead to the reissuing of a financial statement, Mr. Hunt said, “the risk of a restatement is there.” He also added: “The integrity of financial reporting, which is key to protecting investors in our capital markets, demands an attitude and approach dedicated to the continuous improvement of audit quality. It also requires a commitment on the part of audit firms to move to zero tolerance for audit deficiencies.”

And, while a commitment to zero tolerance for audit deficiencies does not mean there will never be audit problems, Mr. Hunt said, “it greatly reduces the likelihood that they will occur.”

In its 2010 public report, the CPAB urges audit firms to:

- Enhance audit engagement supervision and review;
- Have senior personnel better coach and mentor their staff by completing real-time engagement file reviews;
- Strengthen the role of the second partner who conducts quality control reviews of each audit engagement;
- Apply more rigour in their quality monitoring programs; and
- Improve their communications with audit committees.

“We also encourage audit committees to raise the issue of audit quality with their auditors,” Mr. Hunt said. “A high quality audit is an audit committee’s best assurance that it is effectively executing its duties.” He also added that audit committees should consider the pressure being placed on firms to reduce audit fees.

“To support audit quality, firms need to continuously invest in recruiting, training and retaining senior, experienced staff,” Mr. Hunt said. “However, in some cases, firms are under intense pressure to reduce audit fees. Audit committees demanding lower fees need to be sure they understand what implications that may have on the quality of the audit. The interests of shareholders are best served if an appropriate audit fee is paid — one that ensures the sustainability of audit quality.”

In 2010, the CPAB inspected 69 audit firms and 232 audit engagements. These included inspections of Canada’s Big Four firms, inspections of 11 other firms reviewed annually, recurring inspections of 25 firms and 29 follow-up inspections. The CPAB used a number of risk analysis processes to identify higher-risk reporting issuer audits. The 2010 inspections drilled deeply into the audit work in such high-risk areas as valuations, impairments, complex financial instruments, revenue recognition, income taxes and going concern. Following each inspection, the CPAB sent each firm a private report that identified key recommendations to enhance audit quality. Each recommendation requires a response from the firm within a prescribed period of time and the CPAB follows up to ensure that its recommendations have been implemented. The firms have implemented or are implementing, substantially all of the recommendations made in 2010.

The full public report of the CPAB’s 2010 inspections is available at: http://www.cpab-ccrc.ca/EN/content/Public_Report_2010_Eng.pdf.
GET OFF MY CLOUD!

~ excerpts from an article by Peter G. Budreski, CA, President, TCOB Computer Solutions, Bedford

There are services available through the Internet for the public accounting business that make the job easier. Client information, accounting software data files and documentation can be obtained in a heartbeat. Nowadays, the buzz words like SaaS and cloud computing are a standard complement to many of the public accounting services.

It seems like a lot of the suppliers of cloud computing that are invaluable to the public accounting industry say the same thing: “Secure - Encrypted - Confidential.” How does one know that confidential client information will stay confidential as it gets bounced between servers, ethernet wires and routers?

The first thing one needs to understand is that using cloud computing in public accounting has to be thought of in the same way as saying, “The Titanic was unsinkable.” The Titanic sunk, but many other ocean going vessels never do. Why? Everything involves a degree of risk, and cloud computing is no different. The better purveyors of cloud computing employ best practices and protocols to allow for trouble free operations, in a fashion similar to successful shipping companies whose fleet never has a marine tragedy. Equally important is the fact that competent operators realize that secure and proper cloud computing is an ongoing process and not an event. How so?

First, the standard with which a cloud computing provider should aim to be in compliance is SAS 70: Service Audit Reports. SAS 70 is a recognized auditing standard developed by the AICPA that culminates in an opinion that the provider of services has been through an in-depth audit of the company’s control objectives and activities including those involving information technology and related processes.

SAS 70 can occur in two different formats: Type I and Type II. In simple terms, Type I is a snapshot style of report, whereas Type II is an ‘ongoing’ process and considered to be the more rigorous of the two styles of certification. Smart purveyors of cloud computing always keep their Type II SAS 70 fillings up to date.

Additionally, the provider of the cloud computing service should be able to answer the following:

1. Are there multiple locations where customer information is stored in multiple copies? Are locations disclosed? They should not be.
2. Is adequate physical security employed where information is stored? The closer to military grade like Fort Knox, the better.
3. Is the storage of information domestic or foreign? Storage of information in a foreign jurisdiction may pose additional considerations.
4. Why is the cloud computing provider in business? To service copious amounts of individual’s family pictures or a legitimate provider of a business service? Chances are the business provider is savvier at providing a more secure service.
5. Is the provider of the cloud computing able to state that their company’s service meets or exceeds the highest government standards for such things as privacy of information?
6. Is there end-to-end encryption from sender to cloud provider to end user?
7. Does the provider of cloud computing provide for tracking of information so as users (i.e. audit trail) are concerned?

The assessment of a cloud computing provider’s ability to deliver a secure, reliable service will be contingent upon the users’ diligence in getting answers on the SAS 70 filings and on other pertinent considerations listed above. Professional judgment and skepticism certainly do have their place in this decision. The smart cloud computing provider can and will provide detailed answers to these questions - more than just a yes/no.

A competent cloud computing provider should be as convincing as a properly managed bank that has the 100% confidence of its depositors that the money belongs in the bank and not under a mattress.

Finally, the smart accounting practitioner always talks to his clients. The simplest question to ask the client is, “Are you okay with your information being worked on in the cloud?” Even if the accounting practitioner has made all the right choices for a cloud computing provider, the client may not be convinced.

To read Mr. Budreski’s full article, click on: http://www.accountingweb.com/topic/technology/get-my-cloud.
\*CA TRAINING OFFICE PROGRAM PAYS DIVIDENDS AS FIRMS HIRE LESS & COMPETITION FOR TALENT INCREASES

As the leading edge of the baby boom generation starts to retire and CA firms may begin to produce fewer CAs, organizations in industry looking to recruit highly qualified young CAs to guide them and provide critical leadership, will inevitably face stiffer competition for that talent. That said, one of the avenues open to organizations to help alleviate the problem of expected future shortages in the profession is to become an accredited CA Training Office and train students in-house as they complete their CA study program.

Here in Nova Scotia, one such organization is Bell Aliant, one of North America’s largest regional communications providers. Looking to take advantage of the opportunity to recruit and train students who want to work outside of the external audit track, Bell Aliant officially became a CA Training Office in 2008 and hired its first CA candidates in June 2009. Since then, they’ve been working hard as an organization to ensure that expectations are met on both ends.

As Bell Aliant’s VP of Risk, Controls and Financial Governance, Cathy Sawler, CA, says: “There is a lot of enthusiasm within the organization to ensure that the CA training program reflects the highest quality possible; that the candidates receive the necessary mentoring and support, and that they attain competencies that form a solid foundation for their future careers as chartered accountants.”

As a result, Cathy explains that the organization’s CA candidates have enjoyed rich practical experience and in turn, the organization has benefitted from their fresh insights and eagerness to learn.

To this end, Bell Aliant’s first CA candidates wrote the national Uniform Evaluation (UFE) in September 2010. Now, having passed the UFE, Christopher Barnes and Jennifer MacNeil — both financial analysts with Bell Aliant Regional Communications LP — are currently working to complete their term of service required to qualify to become a Chartered Accountant.

“We have had a tremendous start to our CA training program and look forward to many successful years ahead,” says Cathy.

\*Look for more articles regarding the profession’s CA Training Office Program in upcoming issues of E-SCAN.

NEW!

UPDAtED CATO WEBSITE

The CATO website has recently been updated. To learn more, please visit www.icans.ns.ca and click on the following button:
CAS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE
As practitioners are aware, the new Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) came into effect for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 14, 2010. It’s important for members to realize that these new standards apply to all audits, regardless of the accounting framework used by the client — it is applicable to clients who are not adopting international financial reporting standards, as well as to those who are. Comprehensive implementation guidance, some of which is noted below, is available under Resources in the Canadian Auditing Standards section of the Canadian Standards in Transition website at: http://www.cica.ca/cas/resources/index.aspx#CASImplementation.

CAS SUPPORT TOOL
As mentioned in the July and August 2010 issues of E-SCAN, the CICA has developed an on-line resource. The CAS Support Tool identifies the standards that are relevant for each phase of the audit process, provides links to comparative information in the existing standards, and points to learning resources.

CAS Briefings
The CICA developed CAS Briefings to help practitioners gain a better understanding of the new auditing standards. This series includes overviews of six key standards focusing on vital aspects of the standards’ requirements for the auditor.

REPORTING IMPLICATIONS OF NEW AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING STANDARDS - UPDATED
As reported in the last few issues of E-SCAN, comprehensive guidance on reporting, including questions and answers and illustrative auditors’ reports and review engagement reports, is available in the publication, Reporting Implications of New Auditing and Accounting Standards. This guidance was developed by CICA’s Task Force on Audit Reporting Implications of the New Canadian Auditing Standards to provide practitioners with assistance on reporting issues that might arise during the transition to new auditing and accounting standards.

The latest edition of the publication, dated February 2011, can be found at: http://www.aasbcanada.ca/reference-material-for-practitioners/item42988.pdf. Practitioners should pay special attention to Q&A 1(d) and part 2 of the Illustrative Reports, as they address the issue of comparative figures.

FAQs
A comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is also available under ‘Resources’. In addition to providing background information about the new auditing standards, the document also delves into practical considerations, including agreeing the terms of engagement, internal controls, materiality, the auditor’s report and more.

NEW ON-LINE CAS COURSE
As discussed in the September 2010 issue of CAMagazine, CICA has developed an introductory course to help auditors understand the new Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS). The new course, entitled, “Introduction to Auditing Standards in Canada,” is free and on-line. It’s delivered in modules, making it convenient for participants to incorporate it into their schedules. The course, including exercises and final quiz, requires approximately two hours to complete and it qualifies for verifiable CPD credits for CAs. It can be accessed on CICA’s CAS website at www.cica.ca/CAS, under the ‘CAS Support Tool’ icon on the top right-hand side of the page or at http://38.113.180.226/cica_init/.

ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISES - 2011 IMPROVEMENTS
The Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) has recently released the Exposure Draft (ED), 2011 Improvements to Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises. The ED proposes some amendments to Part II of the CICA Handbook, which would be effective for the mandatory adoption date of the standards (i.e. for fiscal periods beginning on or after January 1, 2011). These changes would also apply to not-for-profit organizations using the standards in Part III.

The AcSB welcomes comments on all aspects of the proposed amendments set out in the ED. The deadline for comments is June 30, 2011 and the ED can be accessed at: http://www.acsbcanada.org/documents-for-comment/item49345.pdf.

WEBINAR
The Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) recently held a webinar that highlights upcoming changes to accounting standards for private enterprises, including the recently issued annual improvements exposure draft and major improvements for which exposure drafts are expected to be issued over the next year. To access an archived copy if you miss the session, please visit: http://www.snwebcastcenter.com/event/?event_id=1807.
FIRST NATIONS GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES
~ reprinted with permission from ICABC’s newsletter, News & Views, March 2011

If you have any First Nations clients with for-profit enterprises, be sure to discuss with them the application of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) to government business enterprises (GBEs) effective January 1, 2011. A GBE is an organization that has all of the following characteristics:

• It is a separate legal entity with the power to contract in its own name and that can sue and be sued;
• It has been delegated the financial and operational authority to carry on a business;
• It sells goods and services to individuals and organizations outside of the government reporting entity as its principal activity; and,
• It can, in the normal course of its operations, maintain its operation and meet its liabilities form revenues received from sources outside of the government reporting entity.

Examples of GBEs include wholly owned or controlled corporations or limited partnerships, and these organizations are normally accounted for in the financial statements of the First Nation by the modified equity method, as outlined in the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook. Check out this page on the CICA website for a full discussion of GBEs: http://www.cica.ca/transition/other-accounting-standards/items34823.aspx. And, if you or your clients are looking for resources to transition to IFRS, please visit this page on the CICA website: http://www.cica.ca/ifrs/ifrs-transition-resources/index.aspx.

PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING - NEW GUIDANCE

In connection to the article in the January 2011 E-SCAN (page 3) re: the PS 4200 Series, the following items were posted on CICA’s Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) ‘News and Updates’ website section:

• **GAAP Comparison for Government Not-for-Profit Organizations**
  April 13, 2011. A Summary Comparison of the PS 4200 Series to other standards in the CICA Public Sector Accounting (PSA) Handbook has been issued to assist government not-for-profit organizations in their transition to the PSA Handbook.

• **Determining an Organization’s Basis of GAAP**
  April 13, 2011. A decision tree outlining the different classifications for a government organization and its appropriate basis of GAAP has been posted to assist a government organization in applying the Introduction to Public Sector Accounting Standards.

To read more, go to: http://www.psab-ccsp.ca/pf_item14659.aspx.

Note: to review FAQs for government NPOs, click on: http://www.psab-ccsp.ca/projects/current-projects/item45107.pdf.

**Update re: Section PS 3450, Financial Instruments**

In the May 2011 issue of the PSAB newsletter, *PSAB Matters*, PSAB Chair John Wiersema, FCA, announced that at the PSAB’s March 2011 meeting, the Board approved a CICA Public Sector Accounting (PSA) Handbook Section PS 3450, *Financial Instruments*. The newsletter states that the new standard will increase the transparency and accountability of the use of derivatives and their impact, and enhance and bring consistency to reporting of government risk management activities. Section PS 3450 (click here for highlights: http://www.psab-ccsp.ca/psab-matters/item49850.pdf) is tailored to address the needs and concerns of stakeholders in the Canadian public sector in the following manner:

• The application of fair value measurement is limited to derivatives and portfolio investments that are equity instruments quoted in an active market because fair value is the most relevant measure of these items.
• Unrealized gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are reported in a new statement of remeasurement gains and losses. This addresses stakeholders’ concerns over meaningful budget-to-actual comparisons and volatility in the measure of government performance in the statement of operations.
• The classification of financial instruments is straightforward and easy to apply.

The newsletter states that the Board recognized that financial reporting and accounting standards are evolutionary. International standards development activities on this topic and the Board’s own Concepts and Underlying Financial Performance project may reveal concepts that the Board had not considered previously. The Board believes that the most sensible solution at this time is to allow governments a later transition date of April 1, 2015 and state in the transitional provisions that the Board will review the application of this standard for governments by December 31, 2013. Government organizations adopting the PSA standards can apply this new standard upon their transition into the PSA Handbook (http://www.psab-ccsp.ca/psab-matters/item49850.pdf).
ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISES - NEW ONLINE TOOLS
~ as reported in CAMagazine, May 2011, page 19

With new accounting standards for private enterprises (ASPE) now in effect, the CICA continues to add to its series of transition tools. Generally speaking, the new standards will result in simplified accounting and less disclosure, but experts caution against expecting time and cost savings in the initial year. Careful consideration should be given to assessing available options and alternatives, and to making the required changes to processes and other systems.

APSE must be adopted on a retrospective basis, which will require comparative financial information for 2010, as well as an opening balance sheet as at January 1, 2010 (assuming a calendar year-end). The new CICA tools include:

- **Conversion to Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises: Basic Transition Steps.** This concise booklet outlines seven basic steps companies adopting the new standards should consider, including selection of accounting policy choices and preparing the opening balance sheet.

- **Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises: A Guide to Understanding Transitional Exemptions and Accounting Policy choices.** The publication explains the accounting policy choices that management will have to make and the exemptions available when applying these standards. The guide also illustrates how these choices will likely impact a set of financial statements, including a practical case study.

- **Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises: Transition Considerations for a Non-Complex Entity.** This document outlines issues that a non-complex entity should take into consideration in the transition process. It is intended to raise awareness on possible changes that might affect typical line items in a set of financial statements.

- **Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises — A Case Study: Financial Statements Comparisons.** The publication presents an example of financial statements prepared in accordance with pre-changeover accounting standards (XFI version) and financial statements restated in accordance with accounting standards for private enterprises.

The tools are available for free download at [www.cica.ca/PE](http://www.cica.ca/PE).

COMMUNITY CORNER

It’s no secret that CAs are extremely community-minded. In fact, many of our members are involved in local/national charities and non-profit organizations, and help to coordinate important events like the following:

- **What:** The 9th Annual Laugh for Life Dinner
  **When:** June 28; 6-7 pm reception with dinner to follow at 7 pm
  **Where:** Atlantica Hotel, Halifax
  **Cost:** $125 or $1,250/table of 10
  **In Support of:** The Kidney Foundation of Canada - NS Branch
  **CA Contact:** Jocelyn Green, CA, jgreen@herald.ca
  **What Else:** The event includes dinner, silent auction, raffle draw and entertainment by comedian Bill Carr.

- **What:** ‘Swinging for Supper’ Annual Golf Tournament
  **When:** July 7; registration at 12 noon; shotgun start at 1 pm; dinner to follow tournament
  **Where:** Glen Arbour Golf Club
  **Cost:** $225/golfer or $900/team
  **In Support of:** Feed Nova Scotia
  **CA Contact:** Harrison Robbins, FCA, Harrison@RobbinsFinancial.ca
  **What Else:** The event includes dinner, silent auction, 50-50 draw and many on-hole activities and product samplings.

The tools are available for free download at [www.cica.ca/PE](http://www.cica.ca/PE).

THE FAMILY TRUST GUIDE (updated)

An updated version of the CICA publication, *The Family Trust Guide* (fourth edition), is now available. This guide is designed to introduce your clients to an important vehicle that can help them achieve their financial goals in both tax and estate planning. To order this publication, please visit [www.castore.ca](http://www.castore.ca).
EVENTS OF INTEREST

ANNUAL MARITIME ACCESS & PRIVACY WORKSHOP
“Getting it to Work,” is the theme of this year’s Maritime Access & Privacy Workshop being held June 2 and 3, 2011 at the Westin Hotel in Halifax. Featuring keynote presentations by security experts, former hacker Brad “Renderman” Haines and New Brunswick’s new Information and Privacy Commissioner Anne Bertrand, the workshop is a great opportunity to meet, network and share ideas with colleagues from the access and privacy community across the Maritimes. For more information, visit: http://www.verney.ca/maritime2011/. And to register, click on: https://www.verney.ca/maritime2011/registration/index.php, or call (613) 226-8317, fax (613) 722-7725 or email registration@verney.ca. Information on group discounts can be found at: http://www.verney.ca/maritime2011/groupdiscounts.php.

FACE-TO-FACE
The CA profession is pleased to announce that Jim Carroll, FCA, will be one of the guest speakers at this year’s Face-to-Face Conference, being held June 5 to 7th at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck, NS. Sponsored by Progress, Face-to-Face is Atlantic Canada’s premier event for entrepreneurs and business growers. To this end, Mr. Carroll will share his hands-on experience re: the concept of ‘world-class innovation.’ For content updates, more details and to register for the conference, please visit: www.progressmedia.ca/facetoface.

CREATING A HEALTHY WORKPLACE: LEADING IN THE 21st CENTURY
From June 9 to 11, 2011, the Canadian Institute of Management will be holding its 69th Annual General Meeting and Professional Development Symposium at the Old Orchard Inn in Nova Scotia’s Annapolis Valley. Under the theme, “Creating a Healthy Workplace: Leading in the 21st Century,” the event will feature nationally recognized corporate leaders — Kevin Hamm, CEO, Atlantic Gateway; Ray Ivany, President, Acadia University; Shelley Fleckenstein, CEO, Kings Physiotherapy; Janet Knox, President and CEO, Annapolis Valley District Health Authority; Paul Kent, President and CEO, Greater Halifax Partnership — and workshop presenters who will cover topics such as: “Exercise for a Healthy Workplace,” “Stress Management and Resilience,” “Coaching for Workplace Health,” “Nutrition at Work,” and “Workplace Safety.” For more information and/or to register, please email: CIMNationalConference@gmail.com or call (902) 422-8844 or click on: www.cims.ca.

INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDIT (IIA) LEARNING WEEK
In partnership with IIA Maritime Chapter, IIA Canada is proud to present its Summer Training Week in Halifax, June 14 to 17, 2011 at the Delta Barrington Hotel. Planned sessions, by qualified IIA instructors, include: Audit Manager: Tools + Techniques; Audit Report Writing; Control Self-Assessment: An Introduction; Consulting Activities, Skills, Attitudes; Operational Auditing: Advanced; and Enterprise Risk Management - An Introduction. For more info, go to: http://www.theiia.org/chapters/pubdocs/126/HalifaxTrainingWeekbrochureFinal.pdf or contact Jody Bishop at jbishop@deloitte.ca.

THE CANADIAN INNOVATION CONVERSATION
Are you a small or medium-sized business? Do you have an innovative product or service that you are interested in selling to government? If yes, the Office of Small & Medium Enterprises (OSME) invites you to attend the Canadian Innovation Conversation, being held June 22, 8:30 am to 4 pm, at the Canadian Museum of Immigration, Pier 21 (Kenneth C. Rowe Heritage Hall), in Halifax, NS.

The Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program (CICP) is a new, $40 million procurement program, launched as part of the Government of Canada’s commitment to promote Canada’s economic growth as announced in Budget 2010. Events like the Canadian Innovation Conversation will provide the opportunity for companies to showcase their innovative goods and services to federal departments, as well as allow federal departments to share information on their operations and priorities, and any challenges or needs they are experiencing in program delivery. That said, the CICP — managed by Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) and implemented by the OSME — targets innovations in four priority areas: environment; health; enabling technologies; and safety and security.

There is no cost to attend the June 22nd event, but registration is mandatory. Attendees may register for afternoon networking meetings with federal representatives on site at Pier 21 prior to 12 pm. Registration for networking meetings will be on a first-come-first-serve basis and meetings will be for 15 minutes in duration. To register for the event, please visit: www.eSourceEvent.com/CICPNS. And, for more info, you may email CICP@eSourceEvent.com or call (902) 445-4846. The official source for information on the CICP is www.buyandsell.gc.ca/innovation.
CICA CONTINUING EDUCATION 2011
The gateway to your continuing education is just a click away! Click through CICA’s web communities and what you’ll find is a diverse range in class and online learning in core areas such as income tax and financial reporting, and in unique practice areas and industries such as information security and corporate finance. Many new titles have been added for 2011, including the Business and Industry Conference, the Personal Financial Planning Conference and Showcase, the Practice Management Workshop for SME Advisors and the In-Depth Transfer Pricing Course. In addition, the Xtensions Learning Centre continues to deliver current titles in electronic formats. In Q1, the Centre will be replaced by the new CICA Learning Centre, where you’ll find weekly information updates on key tax, technology, financial reporting, practice management and other topics, easy registration options, and improved access to hundreds of hours of verifiable CPD credits in convenient, easily accessible and affordable e-Learning formats: the current and always popular Xtensions products, new corporate finance modules, the Select Series of information technology topics and new e-Learning courses.

CICA’s delivery formats will expand significantly in 2011, providing options best suited for your current and long-term training needs. The basic philosophy, however, remains constant — a dedication to delivering a unique CPD experience, with benefit-rich lifelong learning products that combine academic rigour and the application of new ideas and knowledge to real life business contrasts. Check out the following:

- **Available Now** — IFRS Self-Study Learning and Certificate Program — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/IFRSSelfStudy/about.cfm](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/IFRSSelfStudy/about.cfm)
- **Jun. 5 - 10** in Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON — CICA In-Depth GST/HST Course — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/idgst/about.cfm](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/idgst/about.cfm)
- **NEW Jun. 6 - 8** in Calgary, AB — CICA In-depth Course on GHG Emissions: Risk, Reporting & Assurance — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/GHGemissions/about.cfm](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/GHGemissions/about.cfm). Space is limited.
- **Jun. 20 - 21** in Toronto, ON — Financial Services Course — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/fsctc/about.cfm](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/fsctc/about.cfm)
- **NEW Jul. 25 - 27** in Blue Mountain, ON, and **Aug. 3 - 5** in Whistler, BC — CICA Practice Management Workshop for SME Advisors — [http://cpd.cica.ca/PracticeManagementWS/](http://cpd.cica.ca/PracticeManagementWS/)
- **Aug. 15 - 18** in Halifax, NS — IFRS Immersion 2 Course — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/IFRSImmersion2/about.cfm](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/IFRSImmersion2/about.cfm)
- **Aug. 20 - 24** in Whistler, BC — CICA In-Depth Tax Course (Part 3) — [http://cpd.cica.ca/part3/](http://cpd.cica.ca/part3/)
- **Sept. 7 - 9** in Toronto, ON — In-depth Brokers and Investment Dealers Course — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/Brokers/about.cfm](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/Brokers/about.cfm)
- **Sept. 19 - 22** in Toronto, ON — IFRS Immersion I Course — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/IFRSImmersion/](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/IFRSImmersion/)
- **Sept. 26 - 27** (workshops **Sept. 25 & 28**) in Ottawa, ON — Commodity Tax Symposium — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/CTS/about.cfm](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/CTS/about.cfm)
- **Sept. 26 - 27** (workshops **Sept. 28**) in Toronto, ON — Financial Reporting and Accounting Conference (IFRS & ASPE) — [http://www.cpd.cica.ca/FRAC/about.cfm](http://www.cpd.cica.ca/FRAC/about.cfm)

For information on all CICA Continuing Education courses and products, visit: [www.cpd.cica.ca](http://www.cpd.cica.ca).

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**MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST**

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL - PD & EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

Rotarians in Nova Scotia are inviting applications from young professionals to participate in a professional exchange to Taiwan for the month of **March 2012**. The purpose of the exchange is to promote international understanding and goodwill. While in Taiwan, you will have the opportunity to meet your professional counterparts. You will also give presentations to Rotary clubs and other groups about our region and country. The Rotary Foundation provides a round-trip air ticket, and local Rotarians in the host country provide meals, lodging and travel in their district. Team members pay only for personal and incidental expenses. People interested in applying must be: employed full-time in a recognized business or profession; a young professional within the age range of 25 to 40; a resident of Rotary District 7820 (NL and Labrador, NS, PEI, St. Pierre et Miquelon); and endorsed by a Rotary Club of District 7820.

For more info and/or a copy of the team member application, contact **Doug Logan** at 755-4583 or at [dlogan@impactgrp.ca](mailto:dlogan@impactgrp.ca).
HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS

J. D. (Jim) Eisenhauer, FCA, P. Eng., has been appointed Chair of Nova Scotia Power Inc. Board of Directors.

Jon Legatto, CA, previously with Homberg Canada REIT Management Inc. in Dartmouth is now the VP, Finance of Brigus Gold Corp. in Halifax.

Keith Oickle, CA, TEP, previously with BMO Harris Private Banking in Halifax, is now the CFO for Mills Heavy Hauling Limited in Goodwood.

Judy Steele, FCA, has been appointed as Interim Chief Financial Officer of Emera Inc., effective May 16, 2011.

Theo van der Linde, CA, has been appointed the CFO of Coronet Metals Inc., a Vancouver-based mining company. In addition, as President of Management Solutions Ltd., in Bedford, Theo still provides financial management and consulting services to publicly traded companies.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

The partners and staff of AC Dockrill Horwich Rossiter. The firm earned the distinction of being named one of the 2011 Best Places to Work in Atlantic Canada by Progress magazine. The ranking of the 29 Best Places to Work in Atlantic Canada was unveiled at an awards ceremony on May 18th at Pier 21 in Halifax and the list will be published in the magazine’s Vol. 18, No. 04 issue, which is distributed in July.

Paul Sobey, FCA, President & CEO, Empire Company Ltd., received an Honorary Doctorate from Saint Mary’s University on May 20, 2011.

Greg Wieczorek, CA, Manager, Internal Controls, Homberg, who was the first (male) runner to complete the full marathon at a time of 2:28:53 during the 2011 Blue Nose Marathon.

CAREER 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

Treasurer - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax
Treasurer - Metro Non-Profit Housing Association (MNPHA)
Treasurer - Nova Scotia Designer Crafts Council (NSDCC)
Treasurer - Strategic Arts Mgmt. (SAM)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Corporate Accountant
- Bedford, NS
Chief Accountant (term)
- Dartmouth, NS
Director of Taxation
- Stellarton or Halifax, NS
Chief Corporate Admin. Officer
- Halifax, NS
Director of Finance
- Annapolis County Municipality, NS
Director of Finance
- Halifax Regional Municipality, NS
Corporate Tax Accountant
- Halifax, NS
Senior Manager, Tax
- Halifax, NS
Interim Director of Finance
- Hants County, NS
Senior Financial Advisor
- Iqaluit, NU
Director of Finance, Administration & Information Technology
- Dartmouth, NS
Tax Manager
- Halifax, NS
VP, Finance & Administration
- Dartmouth, NS
General Manager, Finance
- Dartmouth, 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.

NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals were admitted to membership through affiliation:

Shira Babins, CA
Joan Bradley, CA
Jillian Cochrane, CA
Molly Cotter, CA
Amy Houle, CA
Steve Houle, CA
Jim James, CA
Ashley Leger, CA
Louise MacKinnon, CA
Alykhan (Aly) Mawji, CA

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Town Hall Meetings re: Uniting the Canadian Accounting Profession
  June 15 - Halifax Marriott Harbourfront
  June 20 - Chester Golf Club
- ICANS 2011 Annual Mtg./Golf Tournament
  June 20 - Chester Golf Club