UNITING THE CANADIAN ACCOUNTING PROFESSION

LATEST NEWS — On November 9, 2011, CICA sent an email to all members, which contained a copy of the Consultation Report, which summarizes the comments, questions and concerns heard across the country and sets out how the feedback may be responded to. The Consultation Report excludes Quebec, where a separate process was conducted by the CA, CMA and CGA bodies wherein they have already agreed to unify. It also excludes subsequent member feedback relating to decisions recently made by a number of CGA bodies to join the unification discussion. The report can be found at www.CPACanada.ca and below are some highlights, for your information.

Key Learnings

- Feedback from Members — Opinions varied significantly by designation, by years of career experience, between students and members, and there were strong views both in support of and against proposed unification. Many members said they could not decide whether or not they could support unification until they had more information. They said they wanted to see a formal proposal before deciding.

Most members supported the eight principles set out in the position paper issued last May (http://www.sustainet.com/EHQ/Principles-Principes.pdf). Primary reasons members favored unification include: (1) efficiencies and economies of scale — with 40 different professional bodies involved in Canada's accounting profession, members acknowledged that unification would simplify operations and governance, and reduce disparate marketing efforts, which could deliver savings that could be reinvested in member services and promoting the designation. In addition, members agreed that shared resources should result in better member services; (2) a single unified voice — members agreed that a single voice representing 125,000 or more members would have greater influence within Canada and internationally in relation to policy, legislative and regulatory issues; (3) tagging — members supported retention of their exiting designations. Some, however, expressed confusion about the way tagging would work; (4) in the public interest — there were strong benefits seen from harmonizing professional standards and the consistent application of professional inspection and discipline; and (5) a changing landscape — especially given recent developments in Quebec, members saw the accounting profession changing, and believed a consistent national approach would be important.

Primary reasons members opposed unification include: (1) potential dilution — many members were concerned that unification could dilute their respective brands and that their distinctive, specialized skills and training could be lost; (2) qualification program — members wanted assurance that the new certification process would be as good as current programs. Specifically, they expressed concern about the level of rigor, the entrance standards and the inclusion of both financial and management accounting; (3) non-inclusion of the CGAs — there were questions regarding the absence of CGAs in a union. Since the consultation process began, CGAs have joined in discussions regarding unification nationally and in several provinces (see details on pages 2 & 3); (4) confusion with the U.S. CPA — there were concerns expressed that the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation would be confused or compared with the U.S. CPA; (5) personal benefits — many members questioned the benefit to them directly and raised concerns about the effect on their employment and salary prospects; (6) alternatives — some members wanted to explore alternatives to a union that could achieve the benefits of unification without losing the differentiation between the designations; (7) risk mitigation — some felt that the risks of a union have not as yet been fully explored or presented to the members.

- Feedback from Other Stakeholders — An independent opinion survey was commissioned to understand the way Canadian businesses would react to a CA-CMA union. Overall, Canadian businesses are receptive to a union. Also during this time, the CA and CMA provincial and national bodies engaged in discussion with provincial government representatives, regulators and public policy leaders. Again, most supported the concept of unification (please read the Consultation Report at www.CPACanada.ca for more info on the feedback of both these groups).

Responding to the Feedback

Based on the feedback received, it is recognized that work needs to be done to address the concerns raised by members. This would include the following critical areas:

(continued on page #2)
UNITING THE CANADIAN ACCOUNTING PROFESSION

Developing a certification process that would: (a) be as rigorous as the existing programs; (b) enable the CPA to retain current and enter into new mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) with the world’s leading accounting bodies; and (c) culminate in a comprehensive, multi-day final examination.

Creating a transition plan that would help mitigate risk and deliver maximum efficiencies.

Developing designation features, such as specialization and marketing plans that would ensure the value of the legacy brands transfers to the CPA and that it would become an internationally recognized pre-eminent accounting designation and business credential.

Developing plans for a regulatory framework that would ensure all accountants are subject to the same rules and regulations, which would enhance public confidence while making the profession more efficient.

Throughout the consultation, members questioned the way unification of the profession could deliver tangible public interest benefits and economic efficiencies if it excluded CGA organizations. Since the consultation period ended in September 2011, a number of CGA bodies, including CGA-Canada, have joined the unification talks. The boards and councils of all participating bodies are now considering the way this change affects the potential unification process. Moving forward will take some time. Regardless of these new developments, the feedback from this consultation process is still relevant and all bodies are now assessing it. As the accounting profession in Canada is provincially regulated, the boards and councils governing the respective bodies in each province will decide whether or not to present a formal unification proposal to members, the provincial organizations will be actively engaging members of their respective organizations:

Dear Member:

We are writing to tell you about an important development in the discussions regarding unification of the Canadian accounting profession. CGA-Canada has announced to its members that it has agreed to begin exploratory discussions with the CICA and CMA Canada about the possibility of the three national accountancy bodies merging operations. The CICA and CMA Canada are pleased to welcome CGA-Canada to these discussions.

Over the last five months, as the CAs and CMAs moved forward with the unification initiative, the door was left open for the CGAs to enter the discussion. CGA-Canada has now agreed to begin exploratory discussions with the CICA and CMA Canada Canada about the possibility of the three national accountancy bodies merging operations. The CICA and CMA Canada are pleased to welcome CGA-Canada to these discussions.

Like its affiliates in a number of provinces, CGA-Canada, in joining this discussion, has agreed with the eight overarching principles (http://www.sustainet.com/EEHQ/Principles-Principes.pdf) that have been guiding the CA and CMA organizations’ unification exploration from its inception. This agreement is important, as it provides the potential for a timely unification of members of all three accounting organizations under the designation Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA).

Currently, the CA and CMA national boards and provincial councils are reviewing feedback from members and other stakeholders who influence the future of the profession and we anticipate reporting on that consultation to members within the next several weeks. Should a decision be made to present a formal unification proposal to members, the provincial organizations will be actively engaging members and soliciting feedback, and the national organizations will help to coordinate that process while developing plans to integrate our operations. We will continue to keep you informed as things progress, and as always, we welcome your thoughts on this important initiative. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at: Viewpoint@cica.ca or call 1-800-268-3793.

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.

If you are a CA involved with a non-profit organization that’s planning an event and you’d like to share this info with other ICANS members, let us know!

Send your info (title, date, location, NPO/ charity name, contact) to communication@icans.ns.ca and ICANS will promote it in E-SCAN’s ‘Community Corner.’

Space is limited, so submit your info early and remember, the contact person for the event must be a CA!

November 2011, Page 2
UNITING THE CANADIAN ACCOUNTING PROFESSION (continued from page #2)

- **CGAs in British Columbia, Newfoundland & Labrador and Alberta Join CA-CMA Unification Talks**
  
  On November 1, 2011, the leadership of Certified General Accountants of Newfoundland and Labrador (CGA-NL) and the Certified General Accountants of Alberta (CGA-Alberta) announced to their members that they are joining exploratory discussions with CA and CMA organizations in their respective provinces, as part of the ongoing dialogue to explore the merits and feasibility of uniting the Canadian accounting profession. Likewise, on October 24, 2011, the leadership of the Certified General Accountants of British Columbia (CGA-BC) announced to its members that it is joining exploratory discussions with the CA and CMA organizations in British Columbia.

  In joining the discussion, CGA-NL, CGA-Alberta and CGA-BC have indicated that they agree with the eight overarching principles developed jointly by the CAs and CMAs and outlined in the position paper released in May 2011 (Note: the position paper can be viewed at: [www.CPACanada.ca](http://www.CPACanada.ca)).

  CGA Ontario made a similar announcement in September 2011 and on October 4, 2011, the CA, CMA and CGA Orders in Quebec announced that their respective boards of directors have recommended moving forward with a merger of their organizations to establish a new professional accounting order representing more than 34,000 Quebec CAs, CMAs and CGAs.

  The above announcements are a significant development for accountants in Newfoundland & Labrador, in Alberta and in British Columbia. Throughout the consultation, the CA and CMA bodies have said that the door is always open for the CGAs across Canada to enter this discussion and in the consultation, many members and other stakeholders said it would make sense for the CGA bodies to be part of the conversation.

  As stated in previous communications, should the national boards and provincial councils agree to move the merger discussions ahead, a concrete proposal will be prepared for member consideration and support.

---

**CICA Chair to Speak at ICANS’ 2011 Members’ Luncheon**

ICANS is pleased to announce that the guest speaker at this year’s Members’ Luncheon — being held on December 16th from 11:45 am to 2:30 pm at the Marriott Halifax Harbourfront Hotel — will be Bill MacKinnon, FCA, Chair, CICA Board of Directors.

Appointed CICA’s Chair in the fall of 2010, Mr. MacKinnon has a wealth of experience and insight to share with the province’s newest UFE graduates who will be introduced at the luncheon, along with the Institute’s 2011 FCAs and our 2011 CA of the Year.

Originally from Winnipeg, Mr. MacKinnon earned his CA designation in 1971 after graduating from the University of Manitoba. He became a Partner at KPMG in 1977; was the Managing Partner for the firm’s Toronto Office from 1988 to 1993; was appointed an FCA of the Ontario CA Institute in 1994; and, was the Managing Partner of KPMG’s Toronto Region until 1997. That year, Mr. MacKinnon assumed the role of Vice Chairman, National Consulting, a position he held until 1999 when he became the CEO of KPMG Canada. He retired in 2008.

Over the years, Mr. MacKinnon has been an active volunteer within the CA profession and within the greater community. On behalf of the Ontario Institute, he was a lecturer for 10 years and served on the ICAO’s education committee from 1978 to 1982. Aside from this, he has served on and chaired many not-for-profit and corporate boards. Currently, he is Chairman of the Toronto Board of Trade, Chairman of the Board of the Toronto East General Hospital, and a Member of the Board of Roy Thomson Hall and the Toronto Community Foundation. He is also a Board Member of Telus Corporation, the Public Sector Pension Investment Board, Osisko Mining Corporation, Pioneer Petroleum and Novadaq Technologies Inc. In addition, Mr. MacKinnon chairs the audit committees of the Public Sector Pension Investment Fund and Novadaq Technologies.

In short, it is all this experience combined that enables Mr. MacKinnon to so successfully lead the CA profession, as it evolves through this ever-changing, global environment. We look forward to hearing him speak at ICANS’ 2011 Members’ Luncheon and hope that you can join us.

Note: To register, please click on: [http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/MembersLuncheonRegistration.pdf](http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/MembersLuncheonRegistration.pdf); deadline to register is December 9th.
SIMPLIFYING TAX SYSTEM REDUCES REGULATORY BURDEN MAKING CANADA MORE COMPETITIVE: CICA

The CICA issued a media release during October 2011, to announce its position that, simplifying Canada’s tax system would make the country more competitive and allow both individuals and businesses to prosper. Subsequently, the CICA outlined the recommendations of its pre-budget submission before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance in Ottawa on October 18th.

“Tax regulations are among the top four problematic factors cited by executives for doing business in Canada, according to the World Economic Forum,” says Gabe Hayos, Vice-President, Taxation, CICA. “A willingness to seek change must be emphasized in the tone from the top. We are calling on the government to establish a national consultation process to reduce the complexity of Canada’s tax system and ease the regulatory burden placed on Canadian businesses.”

The CICA says federal departments and agencies should shift from the current focus on regulatory enforcement to an approach aimed at helping businesses comply with tax regulations. In terms of personal income tax, the CICA notes that the federal government has introduced numerous tax credits aimed at incenting certain behaviors. “This only adds complexity to the system,” says Hayos. “In our view, broad-based tax reductions would be a more meaningful approach to providing personal income tax relief.”

Other recommendations include reducing the tax on savings and enhancing financial literacy to ensure that individual Canadians can prosper over the longer-term.

The submission applauds the government’s effort to return to a balanced budget by 2014/2015 and a continued commitment to reduce the corporate income tax rate. To further help Canada prosper, the CICA also recommends measures to encourage innovation, reduce red tape and help internationally trained professionals succeed in their chosen fields. The submission is entitled, Helping Canadians and Canadian Businesses Prosper,” and is available online at: www.cica.ca/prebudget2011.

REPORTING IMPLICATIONS OF NEW AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (6th EDITION)

The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB) has issued the latest edition of this publication, dated November 2011, which provides guidance on reporting issues that may arise during the current period of change to new auditing and accounting standards.

This edition includes guidance on new accounting standards issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board in June 2011, as well as illustrative reports dealing with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and public sector accounting standards.

This publication can be found on the CICA website, in the ‘Standards in Transition’ section, at: http://www.aasbcanada.ca/reference-material-for-practitioners/item50999.pdf.
YOUNG CANADIANS WANT MOM AND DAD TO BE FINANCIAL ROLE MODELS: CICA SURVEY

In a media released issued on October 19, 2011, CICA stated that it commissioned a national survey, which indicated that parents who are most successful at teaching money management skills familiarize their children with the family’s financial situation. The CICA Youth Financial Literacy Study 2011, conducted by Harris/Decima, measured the financial literacy of Canadians aged 16 to 22. Nine-in-ten respondents (93 per cent) believe that parents should be good role models for responsible financial decisions and 83 per cent have approached their parents for advice about money management.

"Being open and transparent about money matters is a key element to opening doors of conversation, producing a higher level of trust and helping youth develop their own financial goals,” says CICA’s President and CEO, Kevin Dancey, FCA.

Of the 78 per cent of respondents who are familiar with their parents' financial situation, the majority (83 per cent) believe that knowledge has helped them establish their own money management goals. Those familiar with their parents' financial situation are more likely to say they have both been approached and have approached their parents for advice. Overall, 7-in-10 respondents are optimistic about their financial future (23 per cent are very optimistic and 46 per cent are optimistic), however, only 47 per cent believe they will be more prosperous than their parents.

The survey suggests that there is plenty of room for improvement when it comes to financial literacy among youth. Fewer than half surveyed are very confident in their ability to develop a budget (36 per cent); stick to a budget (33 per cent); limit spending (39 per cent); or use credit cards responsibly (48 per cent). In fact:

- Only 43 per cent of respondents have a budget;
- Only 52 per cent of respondents track their spending;
- More than one quarter (27 per cent) of the youth surveyed say they do not limit their spending;
- Half (54 per cent) of those surveyed have a credit card and 22 per cent carry a balance.

The survey also found that teenage girls and young women tend to be more cautious than males:

- Females are more likely to worry about money (62 per cent) than males (49 per cent); females also tend to be significantly less optimistic about their financial future (64 per cent) versus 74 per cent for males.

About a third of the youth surveyed (38 per cent) believe their parents have been very successful in teaching them about money. Those results echo the findings of CICA’s Canadian Finance Study 2010 that surveyed parents. It found that 78 per cent of Canadian parents had attempted to teach their children financial management skills, but two-thirds (60 per cent) believed that they were not very successful. The CICA will publish a new tool entitled, A Parent’s Guide to Raising Money – Smart Kids, later this fall.

"Teaching money management is an important facet of parenthood,” says Dancey. “Learning about financial matters helps both children and youth develop the knowledge, values and discipline needed to make life’s important financial decisions. It is best to start when the children are young and then get progressively more advanced as they get older.”

The vast majority of youth surveyed (89 per cent) believe that responsible money management teachings lie largely in the hands of parents. Educators are next, with 24 per cent of respondents referencing them, followed by the financial services sector and banks (16 per cent) and government (13 per cent).

The CICA Youth Financial Literacy Study 2011 was conducted online using Harris/Decima’s online panel. A total of 1,209 completed surveys were collected from a random sample of 16-to-22-year-old panel members across Canada from July 20 to August 2, 2011. The data was weighted by region, age and gender to make the study representative of the Canadian population. A survey summary report is available online at: www.cica.ca/yflstudy2011.
CSA NOTICE RE: NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 45-106 PROSPECTUS AND REGISTRATION EXEMPTIONS

Staff of the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA), which includes the Nova Scotia Securities Commission, are conducting a review of the minimum amount prospectus exemption and the accredited investor prospectus exemption contained in National Instrument 45-106 Prospectus and Registration Exemptions. At the conclusion of the review, CSA staff may recommend either retaining the exemptions in their current form or they may propose change.

As part of the review, CSA staff are consulting with stakeholders, including investors, issuers, dealers, and legal and other advisors. The consultation note (the Note) at the following link — [http://www.gov.ns.ca/nssc/CSANotices/CSA%20CP%2045-401%2010112011.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nssc/CSANotices/CSA%20CP%2045-401%2010112011.pdf) — provides more information on the scope of the review, including some background on the history of these exemptions and specific consultation questions for consideration.

CSA staff invite you to review the Note and provide them with your written comments. Please send your comments electronically in Word format to the addresses in the CSA Notice attached to the Note. The consultation period is open until February 29, 2012. Questions? Please contact Shirley Lee at the Nova Scotia Securities Commission at (902) 424-5441 or via email at LEESP@gov.ns.ca.

CA PROFESSION RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDING

As outlined in an announcement posted on the CICA website ([https://secure.cica.ca/secure/dailyclippings/2011/november/16/item53874.aspx](https://secure.cica.ca/secure/dailyclippings/2011/november/16/item53874.aspx)), CICA is receiving $1.4 million to help internationally trained accountants get jobs in Canada, faster. This announcement was made by Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, who also stated that the money will help streamline the application processes for accountants educated elsewhere.

CICA will create an online assessment tool that will validate foreign education and work experience. It will also establish customized bridging programs to help these accountants complete any additional courses and examinations required to become a Chartered Accountant in Canada.

CICA PROVIDES GOVERNANCE ADVICE FOR BOARDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MATTERS

The CICA issued a media release on November 17, 2011, announcing that it has produced a new publication which outlines for board directors, the business impacts and governance challenges associated with environmental and social issues.

“Ongoing board vigilance is essential,” said Gigi Dawe, Principal, Risk Oversight and Governance, CICA. “When informed boards ask the right questions, it can make a difference.”

The publication, entitled, Sustainability: Environmental and Social Issues Briefing, was commissioned by the CICA’s Risk Oversight and Governance Board and co-authored by Julie Desjardins, CA, and Alan Willis, CA.

Environmental and social issues are increasingly impacting the bottom line and future prospects of companies in many industries, according to the authors. Those issues present both opportunities and risks, and can have important implications for strategy, competitiveness, risk management, stakeholder relations and business resilience.

“In addition to highlighting issues and potential business implications, the publication offers questions that directors might ask in discharging their oversight responsibilities,” said Desjardins.

The publication notes that mainstream institutional investors are expressing a growing interest in the impact of environmental and social issues on company performance and prospects, and in board governance regarding such issues. Factors that companies may need to consider include: water scarcity and quality, climate change, energy, food safety and production, human rights, corruption and the regulatory landscape.

“Directors concerned about a company’s long term success and competitiveness are paying careful attention to how management is integrating key environmental and social issues into strategy and risk, and in building important stakeholder relationships,” said Willis.

The CICA publication is available online at [www.cica.ca/rogb](http://www.cica.ca/rogb).
EXECUTIVE CAs BELIEVE CANADIAN RECESSION UNLIKELY EVEN WITH SHARP DROP IN ECONOMIC OPTIMISM: CICA/RBC BUSINESS MONITOR

A media release issued by the CICA on November 4, 2011 announced that the latest CICA/RBC Business Monitor finds that, despite increased pessimism about the Canadian economy among executive CAs, only 27 per cent predict that Canada will slip into a recession within the next six months.

Optimism about the national economy for the next 12 months is down sharply among the respondents, plummeting to 16 per cent in the third quarter of 2011, compared with 43 per cent the previous quarter.

“Pessimism jumped by 20 per cent when compared with the previous quarter, but it is too soon to tell if this sentiment is an emerging trend,” said CICA President & CEO Kevin Dancey, FCA. “While many executive CAs are expressing a more pessimistic viewpoint, the majority of respondents were actually neutral about the economy with 57 per cent essentially taking a wait and see approach.”

Executive CAs, however, are less optimistic about our neighbors to the south, with 62 per cent saying the U.S. is heading for a recession within the next six months. While 62 per cent of respondents believe their businesses are prepared for a recession in Canada, 71 per cent feel a U.S. recession would have a negative impact on their company. Fifty-seven per cent say that the state of the American economy will represent the strongest challenge to the growth of the Canadian economy.

Those surveyed also are less buoyant about how their own company will perform over the next 12 months when compared with the previous quarter. Business optimism now sits at 48 per cent — a 15 per cent decline from Q2 and an 8 per cent drop when compared to the third quarter of 2010.

“Canadian CAs appear to be taking proactive measures to prepare their companies in the event of another recession,” said Andrea Bolger, Head, Business Financial Services, RBC. “Many are improving efficiencies of scale and building their cash reserves to avert any possible risks.”

While revenue, profit and employee number projections dipped in Q3, the forecasts for the next 12 months remain positive.

**Revenues**
- 63 per cent of respondents expect that their revenues will increase, down from 78 per cent last quarter;
- 41 per cent expect revenues to increase by 5 per cent or more.

**Profits**
- 57 per cent of respondents expect that their profits will increase, down from 69 per cent last quarter;
- 34 per cent expect profits to rise by 5 per cent ore more .

**Employee Numbers**
- 41 per cent of respondents expect the number of employees to increase at their companies, down 10 per cent from Q2;
- 18 per cent expect to increase their employee count by 5 per cent or more, but 42 per cent of respondents do not anticipate any changes.

The CICA/RBC Business Monitor is issued quarterly, based on a survey commissioned by the CICA. The report draws upon business insights of CAs in leadership positions in privately and publicly held companies across Canada. For the Q3 2011, emailed surveys were completed by 380 CAs of 4,300 identified by the CICA as holding senior positions (CFOs, CEOs and COOs). The response rate was 9 per cent, with a margin of error associated with this type of study at +/- 5 per cent, with a confidence level of 95 per cent. The survey was conducted by Harris/Decima from September 13 to 30, 2011. A background document is available online at: [www.cicarbcbusinessmonitor.com](http://www.cicarbcbusinessmonitor.com).
ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD EXPOSURE DRAFT AVAILABLE ON INVESTMENT ENTITIES
The Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) has released an Exposure Draft on Investment Entities that proposes criteria for determining:

- When an entity is an investment entity; and
- When it is required for investment entities to measure investments in controlled entities at fair value rather than prepare consolidating financial statements.

How would these proposals impact stakeholders?

The AcSB deferred the IFRS changeover date to prevent Canadian investment companies from having to change their current accounting treatment for investments in controlled entities while the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) develops its investment entity proposal.

“If the comments the IASB receives demonstrate global support for these proposals, the changes could exempt investment entities from the IFRS consolidation requirements,” said Nicky Lahner, Principal, Accounting Standards Board. “Most importantly, these proposals would provide users of investment entities’ financial statements with fair value information — the information they need to evaluate performance of an entity’s investments.”

The Investment Entities Exposure Draft is available at: http://www.acsbcanada.org/documents-for-comment/item52928.pdf; comments will be received until January 5, 2012.

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE AcSB’s IFRS DISCUSSION GROUP
The next meeting of the IFRS Discussion Group will be held on January 12, 2012 at CICA, 2nd Floor, 277 Wellington Street West, Toronto. The group’s objective is to assist the AcSB by considering issues that arise relative to the application of IFRSs in Canada and recommending which issues should be referred to the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) or IFRS Interpretations Committee. These meetings are normally open to the public, but portions will be held “in camera” at the discretion of the Chair. A copy of the agenda will be posted as soon as it is available, along with a summary description of the issues to be discussed. Meetings are conducted in English; observers are welcome. Those wishing to attend the meeting in person are requested to complete the observer registration form (http://www.acsbcanada.org/international-activities/ifrs/item33199.pdf) and return it by January 11, 2012 (see guidelines for observers at: http://www.acsbcanada.org/international-activities/ifrs/item30787.aspx). An archived recording of the full discussions will be available via the internet in the week following January 12th. Observers who wish to listen to an archive of previous meetings via audio webcast can do so at: http://www.acsbcanada.org/international-activities/ifrs/item30753.aspx. The agenda and meeting notes are also provided.

FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT BY PENSION PLANS - AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 4600
In November 2011, the Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) amended PENSION PLANS, Section 4600, in Part IV of the CICA Handbook - Accounting, as a result of the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 13 Fair Value Measurement in Part I of the Handbook. That said, a background information and basis for conclusions document called, Fair Value Measurement by Pension Plans - Amendments to Section 4600, on this topic is now available at: http://www.acsbcanada.org/basis-for-conclusions/item53612.pdf.

This document summarizes considerations that were deemed significant by the members of the AcSB in reaching their conclusions regarding this amendment. It sets out the reasons the AcSB undertook the project to develop these amendments, the process of research and deliberation, the key decisions made, and the principal reasons for adopting the positions taken and rejecting others. Nothing in the document is to be taken as overriding the requirements of the Handbook. However, the discussion may help readers understand how the AcSB reached its conclusions in developing the amendments and the AcSB’s intent with respect to its interpretation and application.
RESPONSES TO IASB DOCUMENTS FOR COMMENT
By clicking on the following link — [http://www.acsbcanada.org/international-activities/item31114.aspx](http://www.acsbcanada.org/international-activities/item31114.aspx) — you can access a summary of responses by the AcSB or AcSB staff to the IASB’s Documents for Comment. The IASB posts all letters received to their website. The above link will take you to a list of applicable IASB projects (which are also noted below); once you access this list, you’ll find links for each project that will provide more information and a link to the letter submitted by the AcSB, as posted on the IASB’s website.

Applicable IASB Projects

- Improvements to IFRSs - October 21, 2011
- IFRS Foundation Strategy Review - June 27, 2011
- Financial Instruments - Asset and Liability Offsetting - April 28, 2011
- Financial Instruments: Impairment - April 1, 2011
- Financial Instruments - Hedge Accounting - March 9, 2011
- IFRS Foundation Strategy Review - February 17, 2011
- Effective Dates and Transition Methods - January 31, 2011
- Leases - December 22, 2010
- Insurance Contracts - November 30, 2010
- Annual Improvements Process - November 30, 2010
- Stripping Costs in the Production Phase of a Surface Mine - November 29, 2010
- Severe Hyperinflation (Proposed amendment to IFRS 1) - November 29, 2010
- Deferred Tax: Recovery of Underlying Assets (Proposed amendments to IAS 12) - November 9, 2010
- Removal of Fixed Dates for First-time Adopters (Proposed amendments to IFRS 1) - October 27, 2010
- Revenue from Contracts with Customers - October 22, 2010
- Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income - September 30, 2010
- Measurement Uncertainty Analysis Disclosure for Fair Value Measurements - September 7, 2010
- Post-employment Benefits - September 2, 2010
- Extractive Activities - July 30, 2010
- Fair Value Option for Financial Liabilities - July 16, 2010
- Conceptual Framework - The Reporting Entity - July 14, 2010
- Financial Instruments: Amortized Cost and Impairment - June 29, 2010
- Liabilities - Improving IAS 37 - May 19, 2010
- Comparative IFRS 7 Disclosures for First-time Adopters - December 15, 2009
- IASCF Constitution Review, Part 2 - November 24, 2009
- Rate-regulated Activities - November 20, 2009
- Improvements to IFRSs - November 12, 2009
- Extinguishing Financial Liabilities with Equity Instruments - October 5, 2009
- Fair Value Measurement - September 29, 2009
- Discount Rate for Employee Benefits - September 28, 2009
- Financial Instruments: Classification and Measurement - September 14, 2009
- Credit Risk in Liability Measurement - September 4, 2009
- Expected Loss (Impairment) Model - September 2, 2009
- Classification of Rights Issues - September 1, 2009
- De-recognition (proposed amendments to IAS 39 and IFRS 7) - July 31, 2009
- Income Taxes - July 31, 2009

ICANS’ 2011/2012 FALL & WINTER PD PROGRAM
ICANS’ 2011/2012 Fall & Winter PD Program continues. To view an updated PD calendar and see where spots are still available, please visit: [http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/PDCalendars.pdf](http://www.icans.ns.ca/media/documents/PDCalendars.pdf). In addition, to help speed up the registration process, please include your membership number on your registration form; the number is located on any CICA mailing label and it begins with the letter ‘C’. Also, please remember to include the course number along with the course name.

Also, please remember, there is an additional $25.00 + HST late filing penalty per course once the deadline date — two weeks prior to the course date — has past. So, don’t delay; make sure you register for your preferred courses while spaces are still available. And, as always, if you have any questions, please contact Danielle Roode at droode@icans.ns.ca or Kathie Slaunwhite at kslaunwhite@icans.ns.ca, or you can call the Institute at (902) 425-3291.
EVENTS OF INTEREST

THE CANADIAN INNOVATION CONVERSATION
Are you a small or medium size 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 hosted throughout Atlantic Canada during January 2012.

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. The Program includes events — like the one listed below — that 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.

The CICP targets innovations in four priority areas: environment, health, enabling technologies, and safety and security. The CICP is managed by Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) and is implemented by the OSME. Check out the following “Canadian Innovation Conversation” event on:

- **January 17, 2012** at the Canadian Museum of Immigration, Pier 21, in Halifax, NS

There is no cost to attend this event, but registration is mandatory. Attendees may also register for afternoon networking meetings with federal department representatives on site. These meetings will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, each lasting 15 minutes. For more info about this event, click on: CICP@eSourceEvent.com or call (902) 445-4846. The official source for info on the Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program is: www.buyandsell.gc.ca/innovation.

HALIFAX CHAPTER OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF CANADA
Upcoming events, being held at The Halifax Club and organized by the Halifax Chapter of the Financial Management Institute of Canada (fmi*igf), include:

- **December 7, 2011**, 11:30 am to 2 pm, The Halifax Club — Jacques Lapointe, CA, Auditor General for the Province of Nova Scotia, will present on “Auditor Independence” following the Chapter’s annual Christmas lunch. Monique Arnold, the National President of the Financial Management Institute, will also be attending. **Deadline for registration = December 2nd.**

To access a registration form or if you have questions, please contact Angela Porter at (902) 897-8920 or send an email to halifax@fmi.ca. You may also want to visit the fmi*igf website at: http://www.fmi.ca/pages/halifax/EventsHAL.shtml.

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. In Q1, the Centre was replaced by the new CICA Learning Centre (see ad at right) 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.

**Coming Up Next . . .**
- **Dec. 5 - 8** in Toronto, ON — IFRS Immersion 2 Course — http://cpd.cica.ca/IFRSImmersion2/

For information on all CICA Continuing Education courses and products, visit: www.cpd.cica.ca.
HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS
Kelly Gaudet, CA, Assurance, Grant Thornton LLP, Yarmouth, was recently promoted to the position of Senior Manager.

The following Grant Thornton LLP staff were recently promoted to the position of Manager:
Katie Brine, CA, Advisory, Halifax
Allison Butcher, CA, Assurance, New Glasgow
Nick D’Eon, CA, Assurance, Yarmouth
Justin Hawco, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Emily Lowe, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Laura Martin, CA, Assurance, Sydney
Ryan Morse, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Bradley Olsen, CA, Tax, Halifax
Adam Peters, CA, Tax, Halifax
Rob Stevens, CA, Assurance, Halifax.

Rob Richardson, FCA, President, Compass Commercial Realty, is the new Chair of the IWK Health Centre Board of Directors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .
Danny McCarthy, FCA, Managing Director, Credit Suisse, who received an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Saint Mary’s University at the university’s fall 2011 Convocation on October 23rd.

SEND US YOUR UFE MARK’S DAY PHOTOS
On December 2nd, if you’re out celebrating the results of the 2011 UFE, don’t forget to take lots of pictures!

Later, you can send them to ICANS and we’ll include them in an upcoming issue of E-SCAN. You can email your photos to communication@icans.ns.ca and please identify who is in each photo. We look forward to hearing from you!

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

◆ 2011 UFE Results Release Date
Dec. 2
◆ 2011 Members’ Luncheon
Dec. 16 - Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, Halifax
◆ 2012 Convocation
Feb. 11 - WTCC

ARE YOU ON THE MOVE?
If so, be sure to update ICANS with your new address. Just email your info to ICANS’ Membership Registrar, Danielle Roode at droode@icans.ns.ca.

November 2011, Page 11

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

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia (ICANS)
1791 Barrington Street
Suite 1410
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3L1
Tel: (902) 425-3291
Fax: (902) 423-4505
icans@icans.ns.ca
www.icans.ns.ca

CEO and Executive Director
Michele A. Wood-Tweel, FCA, CFP, TEP
mwood-tweel@icans.ns.ca

Director of Professional Standards
Wenda Bennett, CA
wbennett@icans.ns.ca

Director of Regulatory Affairs
Greg Crosby, CA, LLB
gcrosby@icans.ns.ca

Director of Professional Development
Kathie Slaunwhite
kslaunwhite@icans.ns.ca

Executive Assistant
Lynnette Rhind
lrhind@icans.ns.ca

Membership Registrar
Danielle Roode
droode@icans.ns.ca

Administrative Assistant
Cindy Mombourquette
cmombourquette@icans.ns.ca

Communications Consultant
Joy Barkhouse
communication@icans.ns.ca

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

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia (ICANS)
1791 Barrington Street
Suite 1410
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3L1
Tel: (902) 425-3291
Fax: (902) 423-4505
icans@icans.ns.ca
www.icans.ns.ca

CEO and Executive Director
Michele A. Wood-Tweel, FCA, CFP, TEP
mwood-tweel@icans.ns.ca

Director of Professional Standards
Wenda Bennett, CA
wbennett@icans.ns.ca

Director of Regulatory Affairs
Greg Crosby, CA, LLB
gcrosby@icans.ns.ca

Director of Professional Development
Kathie Slaunwhite
kslaunwhite@icans.ns.ca

Executive Assistant
Lynnette Rhind
lrhind@icans.ns.ca

Membership Registrar
Danielle Roode
droode@icans.ns.ca

Administrative Assistant
Cindy Mombourquette
cmombourquette@icans.ns.ca

Communications Consultant
Joy Barkhouse
communication@icans.ns.ca

HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS
Kelly Gaudet, CA, Assurance, Grant Thornton LLP, Yarmouth, was recently promoted to the position of Senior Manager.

The following Grant Thornton LLP staff were recently promoted to the position of Manager:
Katie Brine, CA, Advisory, Halifax
Allison Butcher, CA, Assurance, New Glasgow
Nick D’Eon, CA, Assurance, Yarmouth
Justin Hawco, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Emily Lowe, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Laura Martin, CA, Assurance, Sydney
Ryan Morse, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Bradley Olsen, CA, Tax, Halifax
Adam Peters, CA, Tax, Halifax
Rob Stevens, CA, Assurance, Halifax.

Rob Richardson, FCA, President, Compass Commercial Realty, is the new Chair of the IWK Health Centre Board of Directors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .
Danny McCarthy, FCA, Managing Director, Credit Suisse, who received an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Saint Mary’s University at the university’s fall 2011 Convocation on October 23rd.

SEND US YOUR UFE MARK’S DAY PHOTOS
On December 2nd, if you’re out celebrating the results of the 2011 UFE, don’t forget to take lots of pictures!

Later, you can send them to ICANS and we’ll include them in an upcoming issue of E-SCAN. You can email your photos to communication@icans.ns.ca and please identify who is in each photo. We look forward to hearing from you!

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

◆ 2011 UFE Results Release Date
Dec. 2
◆ 2011 Members’ Luncheon
Dec. 16 - Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, Halifax
◆ 2012 Convocation
Feb. 11 - WTCC

ARE YOU ON THE MOVE?
If so, be sure to update ICANS with your new address. Just email your info to ICANS’ Membership Registrar, Danielle Roode at droode@icans.ns.ca.

L to R: Robert Kelly, FCA, Chancellor, Saint Mary’s University; Danny McCarthy, FCA; and Dr. Colin Dodds, President, Saint Mary’s University.

HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS
Kelly Gaudet, CA, Assurance, Grant Thornton LLP, Yarmouth, was recently promoted to the position of Senior Manager.

The following Grant Thornton LLP staff were recently promoted to the position of Manager:
Katie Brine, CA, Advisory, Halifax
Allison Butcher, CA, Assurance, New Glasgow
Nick D’Eon, CA, Assurance, Yarmouth
Justin Hawco, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Emily Lowe, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Laura Martin, CA, Assurance, Sydney
Ryan Morse, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Bradley Olsen, CA, Tax, Halifax
Adam Peters, CA, Tax, Halifax
Rob Stevens, CA, Assurance, Halifax.

Rob Richardson, FCA, President, Compass Commercial Realty, is the new Chair of the IWK Health Centre Board of Directors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .
Danny McCarthy, FCA, Managing Director, Credit Suisse, who received an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Saint Mary’s University at the university’s fall 2011 Convocation on October 23rd.

SEND US YOUR UFE MARK’S DAY PHOTOS
On December 2nd, if you’re out celebrating the results of the 2011 UFE, don’t forget to take lots of pictures!

Later, you can send them to ICANS and we’ll include them in an upcoming issue of E-SCAN. You can email your photos to communication@icans.ns.ca and please identify who is in each photo. We look forward to hearing from you!

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

◆ 2011 UFE Results Release Date
Dec. 2
◆ 2011 Members’ Luncheon
Dec. 16 - Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, Halifax
◆ 2012 Convocation
Feb. 11 - WTCC

ARE YOU ON THE MOVE?
If so, be sure to update ICANS with your new address. Just email your info to ICANS’ Membership Registrar, Danielle Roode at droode@icans.ns.ca.

L to R: Robert Kelly, FCA, Chancellor, Saint Mary’s University; Danny McCarthy, FCA; and Dr. Colin Dodds, President, Saint Mary’s University.

HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS
Kelly Gaudet, CA, Assurance, Grant Thornton LLP, Yarmouth, was recently promoted to the position of Senior Manager.

The following Grant Thornton LLP staff were recently promoted to the position of Manager:
Katie Brine, CA, Advisory, Halifax
Allison Butcher, CA, Assurance, New Glasgow
Nick D’Eon, CA, Assurance, Yarmouth
Justin Hawco, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Emily Lowe, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Laura Martin, CA, Assurance, Sydney
Ryan Morse, CA, Assurance, Halifax
Bradley Olsen, CA, Tax, Halifax
Adam Peters, CA, Tax, Halifax
Rob Stevens, CA, Assurance, Halifax.

Rob Richardson, FCA, President, Compass Commercial Realty, is the new Chair of the IWK Health Centre Board of Directors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .
Danny McCarthy, FCA, Managing Director, Credit Suisse, who received an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Saint Mary’s University at the university’s fall 2011 Convocation on October 23rd.

SEND US YOUR UFE MARK’S DAY PHOTOS
On December 2nd, if you’re out celebrating the results of the 2011 UFE, don’t forget to take lots of pictures!

Later, you can send them to ICANS and we’ll include them in an upcoming issue of E-SCAN. You can email your photos to communication@icans.ns.ca and please identify who is in each photo. We look forward to hearing from you!

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

◆ 2011 UFE Results Release Date
Dec. 2
◆ 2011 Members’ Luncheon
Dec. 16 - Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, Halifax
◆ 2012 Convocation
Feb. 11 - WTCC

ARE YOU ON THE MOVE?
If so, be sure to update ICANS with your new address. Just email your info to ICANS’ Membership Registrar, Danielle Roode at droode@icans.ns.ca.

L to R: Robert Kelly, FCA, Chancellor, Saint Mary’s University; Danny McCarthy, FCA; and Dr. Colin Dodds, President, Saint Mary’s University.