MEMBERS’ LUNCHEON SNAPSHOTS
Pictured at right are ICANS’ members Andrew Hare, CA (L) and Ross Towler, FCA (R). Andrew received the Institute’s 2014 CA of the Year Award on December 19 at ICANS’ 2014 Members’ Luncheon in Halifax. The award is named after Ross — ICANS’ former Executive Director — and is presented annually to an ICANS member who exemplifies and celebrates the dedication of Nova Scotia CAs working tirelessly for good causes in their communities.

Pictured at right is ICANS’ 2014-2015 Vice-President Bruce Densmore, FCA (L) with Lenard Boggio, CPA, FCA, ICD.D, CICA Chair, who represented CPA Canada and the legacy CICA organization in addressing Nova Scotia’s 2014 UFE graduates and members who attended the ICANS’ Members’ Luncheon on December 19 in Halifax.

CONVOCATION 2015
On February 21, 2015, the World Trade & Convention Centre in Halifax will welcome ICANS, as members and guests gather to formally recognize the province’s newest UFE graduates and pay tribute to our newly minted FCAs. The ‘black tie’ event begins at *6:30 pm*, with a reception in Room 101 (lower level). This is followed by a dinner, which begins at 7:15 pm in the Grand Ballroom, during which time the graduation certificates/awards and FCA designations will be presented. After this, guests are invited to stay and enjoy some dancing to the tunes of Sound Castle — a band which features ICANS members John Swain, CA and Mark Winfield, FCA.

ICANS will be allocating tables of 10 to all members; for members wishing to purchase a ticket, the deadline is February 4, 2015 — to access a fillable/printable ticket request form, click here.

*All UFE graduates are requested to check in at the ICANS table in the lower level reception room before proceeding to Suite 202 for the group/class photo, which takes place at 6:30 pm sharp to allow time for graduates to line-up for the bag-piped procession into the Grand Ballroom.

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

Commemorate Your Success With This Ring
Available for purchase is a custom-made CA ring. Displaying a stylized ‘CA’, this unique ring has been around for more than 25 years and is an iconic symbol of the CA Profession. CA rings are available in either 10k or 14k, yellow or white gold, in both men’s and women’s designs/sizes.

It is **accurate** to say — “Congratulations to our students on passing the UFE (Uniform Evaluation), completing the final academic ascent in becoming a Chartered Accountant.”

**X It is inaccurate** — to refer to students as CAs or new Chartered Accountants; unless students have completed their required work experience and have been admitted into the membership of a professional Chartered Accounting Institute, they are not Chartered Accountants and therefore, it is incorrect to refer to them as such.

**X It is inaccurate** — to refer to students as CPAs or Chartered Professional Accountants; as noted above, students cannot be granted a designation until they have completed their required work experience and have been admitted into the membership of a professional accounting body. Furthermore, in accordance with past communications from ICANS, until new legislation is passed in Nova Scotia and By-Laws have been established regarding the use of the CPA designation, accounting professionals (this includes ICANS members) will continue to use their existing designations and follow the Acts, By-Laws, Codes of Conduct and Policies, as required by their existing professional bodies.

**X It is inaccurate** — to refer to the UFE as the ‘Uniform Final Examination’; the term UFE stands for ‘Uniform Evaluation’.

### ICANS’ 2014-2015 FALL/WINTER PD PROGRAM

The New Year is upon us and ICANS’ PD Program is still in full swing! Spots are available for the following courses being offered in **February** and **March**. For a complete listing/description of learning opportunities check out [ICANS’ 2014 - 2015 Fall/Winter PD Brochure](#). To view the complete calendar of courses, click [here](#). And, to register for a course, click [here](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Practitioners &quot;Need to Know . . . &quot;</td>
<td>PD14151161</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASPE - A Comparison to IFRS</td>
<td>PD14150321</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASPE: Revenue Recognition (am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxation of Domestic Trusts - Compliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced CaseWare &amp; CaseView (am)</td>
<td>PD14150661</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk &amp; Control Workshop for Not-For-Profit Organizations</td>
<td>PD14150521</td>
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<td>Email Efficiency: Writing for the Wired World</td>
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<td>Finding Flow: The Art and Science of Motivation (pm)</td>
<td>PD14150871</td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influential Leadership: Leading Teams and Others</td>
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<td>Effective Communication Skills for Outstanding Performance</td>
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<td>Scientific Research &amp; Experimental Development Tax Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dealing with Difficult People</td>
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<td>When Perfect is Not Good Enough (am)</td>
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<td>Alternate Dispute Resolution in Business (am)</td>
<td>PD14150142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delegation - Sharing the Load Effectively (pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternate Dispute Resolution in Business</td>
<td>PD14150142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Tax Planning Strategies</td>
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<td>Taxation of Domestic Family Trusts - Advanced</td>
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<td>Advanced Estate Planning for Business Owners</td>
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<td>Stress - Taking a Problem Solving Approach</td>
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<td>Time and Priority Management</td>
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<td>Strategy and Risk Management for Financial Managers</td>
<td>PD14150641</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Making of a Great Leader</td>
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<td>Strategic Relationship Skills for Influence</td>
<td>PD14150991</td>
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<td>Email Etiquette: Create the Right Tone &amp; Get the Best Response (am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing for The Web - Content that Works (pm)</td>
<td>PD14151091</td>
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<tr>
<td>I'm Right - You're Wrong!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings to Live For (am)</td>
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<td>Mar. 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stop Putting Things Off and Master Your Priorities (pm)</td>
<td>PD14150981</td>
<td>Mar. 25</td>
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**PD Questions?**

Contact Danielle Roode at droode@icans.ns.ca or by calling (902) 425-3291, ext. 31.
UNITING THE CANADIAN ACCOUNTING PROFESSION

LATEST NEWS

CPA Legislation Proclaimed in Newfoundland and Labrador — CPA Canada issued an update on January 21, 2015 to inform stakeholders that on January 9, 2015, CPA Newfoundland and Labrador was formally established by proclamation of The Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accountants Act (Newfoundland and Labrador). The communication stated that members can now use the CPA (designation) in conjunction with their legacy designation. CPA Newfoundland and Labrador will represent more than 1,400 members and over 200 candidates.

Next Steps in Newfoundland and Labrador
Visit the CPA Newfoundland and Labrador website at https://www.cpanl.ca/ for information on the use of legacy designations and tagging, Rules (e.g. the Act, Regulations, Bylaws, Board rules and the Rules of Professional Conduct) and next steps.

Unification Legislation Passed in Alberta Legislature — CPA Canada issued an update on January 9, 2015 to inform stakeholders that The Chartered Professional Accountants Act passed its third and final reading in the Alberta Legislature on December 9, 2014, and received Royal Assent on December 17, 2014. The Act is a historic piece of legislation for the profession in Alberta.

On the Path to Unification
Although the Chartered Professional Accountants Act has received passage in the Legislature, it will not come into force until proclamation at a later date. Once proclaimed, the Act will:
- replace the Regulated Accounting Profession Act as the governing document for the profession in Alberta;
- create the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation in Alberta; and
- establish CPA Alberta as the single governing body for the designated profession in the province.

Next Steps in Alberta
Before proclamation, Alberta members must vote on and approve the new Rules of Professional Conduct, Bylaws and Regulations for the profession. It is anticipated that this vote will occur in late spring of 2015. Until the legislation is passed and proclaimed, Alberta members are not allowed to use the CPA designation. They should continue to use their legacy designation(s) until legislation is proclaimed in 2015.

Status of Unification Across Canada
All 40 accounting bodies in Canada have either unified or are participating in discussions to unite under the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) banner. Click here to stay up to date on unification news.

CPA Winter Brand Advertising Campaign — CPA Canada recently issued a communication to provincial professional accounting bodies stating that, following a very successful fall brand campaign that ran from September to November 2014, a new winter campaign will run from January 12 to the week of March 2, 2015, and it will continue to build awareness of the CPA brand by maintaining the ‘PRO’ fill-in-the-blank (___ ___ ____) creative format. Specifically, the communication cited that brand research conducted at the end of the fall campaign in December 2014 confirmed the effectiveness of the creative approach, with members and MOPES having a high level of message comprehension. Advertising messaging communicated by the campaign imparted numerous positive qualities that define CPAs and position them as highly qualified, capable, trustworthy and team-oriented professionals who provide value in any business setting.

To this end, CPA Canada has updated the campaign with the best location billboards available and supplemented it with new digital banners and street level boards that engage the reader with thought (pro)voking questions. Yes, you need a “pro” to complete the sentence:

- (Pro) __ __fit from our experience. Need a Pro?
- Increase your __ __ (pro)fits. Need a Pro?
- Want (pro) __ __gress? No Problem. Need a Pro?
- Get results (pro) __ __nto. Need a Pro?
- (Pro) __ __tect your assets. Need a Pro?
UNITING THE CANADIAN ACCOUNTING PROFESSION (continued from page #3)

Also for this winter flight, you will see the return of airport advertising in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Moncton and St. John’s, which continues to reach our highly targeted business stakeholder audiences. Print ads will also appear in select publications such as Report on Business, MacLeans and Canadian Business. In addition, the new campaign includes significant digital advertising content for widely read online publications such as the Globe & Mail, Toronto Star, Post Media, La Presse and Les Affaires. CPA Canada has sponsored highly targeted business strategy and leadership content, with links back to the CPA Canada website to drive traffic and engagement with the organization’s information rich website. The banners are animated to show the PRO word appearing in the _ _ _ spaces in the headlines to draw the reader’s eye to the CPA ad banners. To view the updated brand campaign video, click on CPApro.ca; to view samples of the sponsored digital content articles and ads, click on the following links:


Post Media — Management Links

Title: The Role of a CFO  Body: Learn about the role and expectations of a CFO

Title: The Road to the C-Suite  Body: How to navigate your way to the C-Suite

Title: Why Become a CPA?  Body: The CPA designation is your key to career success

Title: Sustainability Reports  Body: CPA Canada can aid corporate sustainable reporting

Post Media — Strategy Links

Title: Strategy Toolkit  Body: Guide to business strategy & execution planning

Title: Value Creation  Body: Is maximizing shareholder value the optimal model?

Title: Value Strategies  Body: Create shareholder value in a low-growth economy

Title: Hot spots to watch  Body: Top 10 emerging markets for Canadians to invest

(continued on page #5)
UNITING THE CANADIAN ACCOUNTING PROFESSION
(continued from page #4)

UNITIFICATION RESOURCES

- **Unification Resources** — To access unification discussion resources (including an academic paper by William Lahey LLM, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, which outlines potential benefits of unification for self-regulation), click on: [http://unification.cpacanada.ca/resources/](http://unification.cpacanada.ca/resources/).

- **CPA Canada’s Gone Social - Join the Conversation** — CPA Canada has joined the accounting and business conversation online and is connecting with members and other key stakeholders through corporate channels. Join the conversation on LinkedIn (CPA Canada), Twitter (@CPAcanada) and YouTube (YouTube.com/CPAcanada).

- **New LinkedIn Group** — To coincide with full unification of the profession at the national level, CPA Canada launched an official LinkedIn group for members. Click here to join and then feel free to start a discussion!

- **A New Way to Manage Your CPA Online Communications** — CPA Canada has introduced a new and easy way to manage your online communications from the national office. Through CPA Canada’s preference centre, you are now able to identify and select the content you would like to receive and the communications channels through which it is delivered. Updating your account is fast and easy. Visit the My Account section on the CPA Canada website (French: Mon compte) and follow the prompts to identify your interests and subscriptions, so you will receive the information you want, when and how you want it. Questions? Please contact CPA Canada Member Services at member.services@cpacanada.ca.

- **New CPA Canada E-Newsletter Lets You Choose Your Content** — CPA Canada’s new integrated and dynamic e-newsletter, *Member News*, launched in January 2015 for all members, students and candidates. The content of this monthly publication is automatically pulled from new content on the CPA Canada website and will be determined by the topics and interests you identify in the preference centre. Visit My Account to review and update your individual topics and interests. Note: *Member News* will also include topics from recently decommissioned e-newsletters, such as *CPA Today*.

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**CPA CANADA’S TAX BLOG**

Whether it’s updates on the T1135, tax preparer registration or other hot topic issues, CPA Canada’s tax team shares important information on tax policy, and practice developments and issues, on its Tax Blog — and discusses their impact on Canadian accountants who practice tax. The online comments also provide helpful input to CPA Canada’s public interest advocacy positions. Check out the latest posts on the CPA Canada website, including this recent Tax Blog posting from Gabe Hayos, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D, Vice-President, Taxation and National Practice Area Leader, CPA Canada:

- **CRA Agreement Allows for Member Input** — This blog post discusses the new CPA Canada/CRA Agreement aimed at improving the tax system and asks, “What do you expect can be achieved through this new relationship?”

  CPA Canada’s new agreement with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will give CPAs greater input into how the administration of Canada’s tax system can be improved. The agreement formalizes a framework for continuous engagement and closer collaboration between the agency and Canada’s accounting profession to ensure a more effective and efficient regime. Success will be measured in terms of the framework’s effectiveness in advancing and resolving issues, raising levels of compliance, and reducing the administrative burden for all stakeholders.

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**CPA CANADA’S FORENSIC ACCOUNTING BLOG**

CPA Canada’s Forensic Accounting Blog is designed to create an exchange of ideas on forensic accounting developments and issues, and their impact in Canada. The following post is from forensic accountant Edward Nagel, CPA, CA•IFA, CBV:

- **Beware of Bookkeepers Who Won't Answer Straightforward Questions** — As accountants, we often rely on bookkeepers to perform the arduous task of preparing the raw journal entries — the gazillion transactions — that tell the financial story about a company. Rightly or wrongly, we assume the bookkeeper has the necessary knowledge and experience to provide us with this information. But, what happens if your bookkeeper is not an ethical bookkeeper? To read more, click here.
CPA CANADA RECOMMENDATIONS AMONG THOSE BEING PUT FORWARD BY FINANCE COMMITTEE

As stated by CPA Canada in a member communications update it posted on January 16, 2015, pre-budget recommendations from the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, focusing on effective fiscal management, the country’s tax system and advancing innovation, are in line with those suggested by CPA Canada.

Among its several recommendations, the committee calls on the federal government to:

- Continue to scrutinize and review the spending of taxpayers’ dollars in order to eliminate waste and inefficiencies;
- Explore new ways to simplify the Income Tax Act;
- Continue to ensure the existence of a competitive tax system in order to promote job creation and attract new investment; and
- Encourage and support Canadian businesses to develop made-in-Canada solutions when it comes to research, development, innovation and commercialization — including exploring the feasibility of a “patent box”.

CPA Canada’s proposed “patent box” is aimed at encouraging businesses to commercialize and retain patents in this country. Innovative companies would be rewarded through a lower tax rate on profits earned from the commercialization of patents in Canada.

“We applaud the committee for listening and reinforcing its support for key measures required to help grow the Canadian economy,” says Kevin Dancey, FCPA, FCA, President and CEO, CPA Canada.

In fact, CPA Canada is not alone in its call for tax simplification and reform. The committee report notes: “The Canadian Council of Chief Executives, the Conference Board of Canada and the Canadian Taxpayers Federation called for a comprehensive review of the tax system, with a view to simplifying it and supporting economic growth.”

“This demonstrates the growing consensus for tax reform,” stresses Gabe Hayos, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D, Vice-President, Taxation and National Practice Area Leader, CPA Canada. “It’s time for a thorough review of Canada’s tax system. A lot has changed since this was last done with the Royal Commission on Taxation in the ‘60s.”

CPA Canada also welcomes the committee’s support of financial literacy and its call for the government to pursue an aggressive trade agenda.

While the committee report referenced CPA Canada’s request that business data be standardized for electronic filing, it was not directly mentioned among the recommendations. “We will continue to push for standardized business reporting, namely XBRL, because this would help reduce compliance costs for business and improve the government’s data collection,” says Kevin.

CPA Canada’s pre-budget submission to the finance committee is available online at www.cpacanada.ca/prebudget2014.

CRA UPDATE

- **CRA Assistance in Verifying Capital Dividend Account Balances: Update** — For taxpayers and tax advisors, keeping track of capital dividend account (CDA) balances is difficult, but crucial for avoiding penalties and other problems. For years, CPA Canada has been working with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to find a solution to persistent administrative problems for tax practitioners and their clients related to CDA calculations. Starting in April 2015, the CRA is making verification easier. To learn more, click here.

*Note: For more news on these topics, see “Red Tape Reduction” article on page #7.*
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RED TAPE REDUCTION APPLAUDED: CPA CANADA

CPA Canada issued a media release on **January 21, 2015** to announce that it is encouraged by the federal government’s latest update showing continued progress in the effort to reduce the red tape burden faced by Canadian business owners.

The government’s second **Annual Scorecard Report**, released on **January 21, 2015**, outlines the reforms taken to confront red tape and allow business owners to spend more time focusing on strengthening and growing their operations. For example — as stated in the media release — in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, there was an estimated savings of $75 million in compliance and administrative costs for small business as a result of the Small Business Lens. Other measurable results show fewer regulations overall and businesses spending less time dealing with frustrating and costly red tape.

“In today’s unsettled economy, Canadian businesses face enough challenges without unnecessary compliance burdens and the associated costs,” says **Gabe Hayos**, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D, Vice-President, Taxation and National Practice Area Leader, CPA Canada. “While the government is making progress in cutting red tape, a diligent approach must be sustained. The government is off to a good start with its Red Tape Reduction Action Plan and the Annual Scorecard, but it can go further.”

The media release also stated that CPA Canada continues to push for standardized business reporting, namely XBRL, because it would help reduce compliance costs for business and improve the government’s data collection. The national accounting body also says further action can be taken to ease the compliance burden in the area of taxation.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and CPA Canada have a framework agreement in place. Both organizations are working collectively on issues of mutual interest, including red tape reduction. CPA Canada’s views were sought in a stakeholder consultation session held by the external Regulatory Advisory Committee tasked with reviewing the Scorecard to ensure it is a reliable account of the progress being made.

“There is momentum in the effort to reduce red tape,” says Gabe. “For continued success, maintaining transparency and accountability is essential.”

To read the official media release, click [here](#).

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CPA CANADA BUSINESS MONITOR

On **January 27, 2015**, CPA Canada issued a media advisory stating that, due to the many prominent factors affecting the Canadian economy, a news release will not be issued outlining the findings of the latest **CPA Canada Business Monitor** (Q4 2014).

The media advisory noted that the results are usually issued quarterly based on a survey commissioned by CPA Canada. The research draws upon business insights of professional accountants in leadership positions in privately and publicly held companies. However, as outlined in the media advisory, CPA Canada believes that much of the data collected for the most recent survey may not accurately reflect the current thinking of the participants; this would include findings for optimism and pessimism levels, along with forecasts for revenues, profits and employee numbers.

The field work was conducted from **December 4 to December 19, 2014**. After its completion, oil prices continued to plunge, Target Corporation and Sony Corporation announced plans to close their Canadian stores, and the Bank of Canada dropped its trend-setting interest rate.

Although the economic landscape changed greatly after the field work was completed, CPA Canada’s media advisory mentioned that it is interesting to note that economic pessimism among the professional accountants surveyed was already at its highest level since 2011.

To review highlights from the survey, click [here](#).
On January 22, 2015, CPA Canada also referred to the CPA Canada Business Monitor (Q4 2014) in a communication on its website entitled, Canadian Business Leaders Concerned About Consumer Debt Levels. Within this communication, CPA Canada reminded stakeholders that, to help equip Canadians with the necessary knowledge to make responsible money decisions, the federal government appointed Jane Rooney as Canada’s first financial literacy leader. The appointment took place in April 2014 and the position is tied to the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC).

In particular, the CPA Canada communication posting stated that Jane sees a valuable window of opportunity for consumer debt reduction, saying: “Within the current environment with very low interest rates, FCAC’s message to Canadians is that now is a good time to pay down debt, because rates will rise.”

Moreover, an important part of Jane’s mandate with the FCAC, is to help Canadians find the right information so they can manage money more effectively. As outlined in the CPA Canada communication, the FCAC has developed many free online resources, including some on the topic of managing debt, such as:

- [Dealing with debt](#), an informative overview;
- [How to beat that debt](#), a tip sheet to help people plan spending according to income;
- [Financial Goal Calculator](#), which contains a component about reducing debt; and
- [Canadian Financial Literacy Database](#), a comprehensive database of over 860 financial management resources, events, tools and information from private and public sector and non-profit organizations.

The CPA Canada communication stated that, as trusted financial experts, CPAs are involved at many levels, providing Canadians with unbiased, objective financial advice. “As front line professionals who interact with Canadians directly, CPAs can play a big role by sharing programs and resources Canadians can use to improve money management skills,” says Jane.

Cairine Wilson, CPA Canada’s Vice-President, Corporate Citizenship, oversees the organization’s financial literacy. She says, “Too many Canadians are making financial decisions that are not in their long-term interests. They need help with the basics: saving more, spending less and reducing debt.”

As included in the CPA Canada communication, Cairine also notes that the hardest part for many individuals is making the decision to take control of their personal finances. Canada’s accounting profession is helping to make that decision easier. Right now, there are thousands of professional accountants registered, trained and prepared to conduct free financial seminars in communities across the country through CPA Canada’s Community Connect Program.

“These volunteers are giving back to their community and allowing others to gain financial confidence and knowledge,” says Cairine.

A busy 2015 lies ahead for CPA Canada’s financial literacy program, including a new book on planning for retirement later in life. “This book will interest individuals who haven’t been able to maximize RRSPs or pay off debt and therefore, face financial challenges as retirement approaches,” explains Cairine. “Many Canadians face this type of situation, but it is never too late to start saving money and the publication offers many practical tips.”

In addition to the book, CPA Canada is looking to expand its extensive volunteer network and to launch new education programs for university students and for employees in the workplace.

Canada’s accounting profession, through Cairine, is also playing an active role in the development and implementation of a national strategy for financial literacy. Cairine is one of 15 champions on Jane Rooney’s National Steering Committee on Financial Literacy, providing input as the strategy is developed.
NOMINATION PERIOD
OPEN: THE 2015 AWARDS
OF EXCELLENCE IN
PUBLIC SECTOR
FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT

This prestigious Awards of Excellence in Public Sector Financial Management honours the exceptional work of individuals or teams in financial management in the federal public service. There are three award categories:

1. Innovation;
2. Financial Leadership (CFO); and
3. Lifetime Achievement.

Anyone working within the Government of Canada, as well as the general public, can make a nomination. Winners will be celebrated at an elegant spring gala in Ottawa, ON.

Nominations close on February 9, 2015.

To learn more, click here.

ONLINE REGISTRATION
OPTION AVAILABLE
SOON FOR EMPLOYERS
SEEKING WCB
COVERAGE

Starting on February 17, 2015, employers in Nova Scotia seeking workplace injury insurance coverage will be able to apply for coverage online with the Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) of Nova Scotia through the WCB website.

Through the online employer registration form, employers will be able to apply for coverage quickly and easily. Previously, employers had to complete a print form and mail or fax the registration. Starting mid-February, employers will be able to register online and immediately receive a confirmation email, including useful links and information about health and safety.

Employers and third-party providers who register employers for WCB coverage are asked to discard existing print copies of the WCB employer registration form and move to online registration starting February 17.

In-person and mail/fax options will still be available for employers who cannot register online by contacting the WCB at 1-877-211-9267.

For more info about the WCB, visit www.wcb.ns.ca or call the number above.

Exprience Works

Visit Boomerswork.com to find out how we’re connecting experienced professionals – like CAs – with interesting part-time and term opportunities.

Online registration option available soon for employers seeking WCB coverage

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Visit Boomerswork.com to find out how we’re connecting experienced professionals – like CAs – with interesting part-time and term opportunities.
FINANCIAL REPORTING & ASSURANCE STANDARDS HIGHLIGHTS

Below are news highlights re: financial reporting and assurance standards in Canada. To ensure you receive a complete account of the latest information from the Accounting Standards Oversight Council (AcSOC), the Accounting Standards Board (AcSB), the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB), the Auditing and Assurance Standards Oversight Council (AASOC), and the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB), click on: http://www.frascanada.ca/site-utilities/EmailCheck.aspx.

- **AcSB Request for Information - Post-Implementation Review: Section 3856, Financial Instruments** — The AcSB has issued a Request for Information seeking feedback on whether Section 3856 is causing unexpected challenges and is meeting user needs. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments, on the form provided, by February 9, 2015. To learn more, click here.

- **PSAB Request for Information - Post-Implementation Review: Section PS 3410, Government Transfers** — The PSAB has issued a Request for Information to gather information about stakeholders’ experience in the implementation and ongoing application of Section PS 3410. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their responses, on the form provided, by May 15, 2015. To learn more, click here.

- **AASB Exposure Draft - Joint Policy Statement Concerning Communications with Law Firms Regarding Claims and Possible Claims in Connection with the Preparation and Audit of Financial Statements** — The AASB and the JPS Review Committee of The Canadian Bar Association have issued an Exposure Draft that proposes a revised Joint Policy Statement. Auditors, financial statement preparers, law firms and legal counsel are affected by the new JPS. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit this comments by April 6, 2015. To learn more, click here.


IFRS HIGHLIGHTS

Below are news highlights re: the IFRS Foundation (International Financial Reporting Standards) and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). To ensure you receive a complete account of the latest information, plug into the free, online subscription service of the IFRS Foundation — eIFRS — by clicking on http://eifrs.ifrs.org/IB/Register. Also, check out the numerous documents for comment on IFRS by visiting http://www.frascanada.ca/international-financial-reporting-standards/index.aspx.

- **IASB Exposure Draft - Classification and Measurement of Share-based Payment Transactions (Proposed amendments to IFRS 2)** — The IASB has issued an Exposure Draft proposing amendments to IFRS 2 Share-based Payment. Canadian stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments to the IASB by March 25, 2015. To learn more, click here.

  Note: The AcSB has issued an Exposure Draft that corresponds to the IASB’s Exposure Draft on this topic. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments, on the form provided, by March 25, 2015. To learn more, click here.

- **IASB Exposure Draft - Disclosure Initiative (Proposed amendments to IAS 7)** — The IASB has issued an Exposure Draft proposing amendments to IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows. Canadian stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments to the IASB by April 17, 2015. To learn more, click here.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **PSAB Volunteer Opportunity - Employment Benefits Task Force** — PSAB is currently seeking members for its Employment Benefits Task Force. If you are interested, please submit a resume by February 16, 2015. To learn more, click here.

- **IFRS Volunteer Opportunity - Interpretations Committee** — The Trustees of the IFRS Foundation are seeking applications for membership of the Committee beginning on July 1, 2015. Candidates should have the ability to identify and address issues concerning the practical application of IFRSs. Applications should be submitted by March 6, 2015. To learn more, click here.
ACCOUNTING STANDARDS PUBLICATION

- **Bulletin - 2014 Accounting Standards Year-End Summary** — This year-end summary contains key information and updates published online during 2014. To read, click here.

**NEED HELP WITH MODIFIED AUDIT OPINIONS?**

Do you issue a qualified opinion on fundraising revenues for not-for-profit organizations (NPOs)? If you ever issue an auditor's report with a modification (qualified, adverse or disclaimer of opinion), please click here to read an article on this matter.

NEW RESOURCES • BRIEFINGS • ALERTS • PUBLICATIONS

- **Canadian Professional Engagement Manual (C•PEM): Providing Guidance on Performing Effective Engagements** — A valuable resource for your practice, C•PEM provides a comprehensive road map to performing effective and efficient engagements in Canada. To access a copy, click here.

- **Complement your C•PEM Subscription with the New C•PEM Forms Walkthroughs (videos)** — The new C•PEM Forms Walkthroughs are practical videos designed to walk you through the process of filling out the key C•PEM forms, step-by-step. To learn more, click here.

- **ASPE Briefing - Section 3462: Defined Benefit Plans** — Learn how to correctly apply ASPE Section 3462 for defined benefit plans. For more info, click here.

- **Auditing and Assurance Alert: CAS 540 - Challenges in Complying with the Requirements When Auditing Accounting Estimates** — Gain insight into the challenges auditors face when auditing accounting estimates, including a reminder of selected requirements, and potential actions to assist you in complying with the requirements. To access a copy, click here.

- **Auditing and Assurance Alert: CAS 600 - Challenges in Complying with the Requirements in Group Audits** — Learn about the challenges you may face when applying the requirements of CAS 600 in group audit. To access a copy, click here.

- **Auditing and Assurance Alert: CSRS 4460 - A New Standard for Reports on Supplementary Matters: Are You Ready?** — This new standard, issued in June 2014, deals with engagements where a practitioner is asked to report on supplementary matters to a third party, such as a regulator or funder. For more info, click here.

- **IFRS Round Up 2014: Reporting Alert** — Make sure your accounting and reporting systems are up-to-date with this year-end round up reporting alert. To access a copy, click here.

- **Reading Financial Statements: What do I Need to Know?** — Understanding the fundamental concepts, conventions and principles underlying financial statements is essential to financial literacy. This publication aims to answer some key questions a user trying to obtain a basic understanding of financial statements might ask. To access a copy, click here.

- **Management’s Discussion and Analysis: Guidance on Preparation and Disclosure** — The MD&A is a core element of the communications package for external reporting purposes. It is a powerful communication tool for management to describe how the company has created value and how it plans to continue to do so. Recognizing this importance, CPA Canada offers this comprehensive guide to assist management and boards of directors. To access a copy, click here.

- **Equity-Based Alternatives to Stock Options** — Stock options have been widely used by public companies as part of employee compensation plans. Many large companies, however, now are moving to other stock-based compensation plans, which also may be attractive to smaller public companies. *Equity-based Alternatives to Stock Options* is a useful primer to facilitate meaningful discussion between boards and management. It outlines alternative equity-based compensation plans and uses examples and short case studies to illustrate the differences in the approaches. To access a copy, click here.
WEBINARS

Upcoming Webinars

- Joint Policy Statement Concerning Communications with Law Firms: Improvements Proposed (Feb. 10, 2015)
- Practitioner’s Pulse: Key Developments Affecting Your Practice (Feb. 11, 2015)

Archived Webinars

- Auditing Accounting Estimates
- Developments in ASPE: Fall 2014 Update
- Redeemable Preferred Shares Issued in a Tax Planning Agreement
- Developments in IFRSs: Fall 2014 Update

As CPA Canada has recently moved to a new webinar platform, it is strongly recommended that interested participants run the System Check to ensure they have a compatible version of Flash installed.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

AFOA CANADA 15TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA) is holding its 15th Anniversary National Conference in Winnipeg, MB, February 17 - 19, 2015, at the RBC Convention Centre. Entitled, “Business Development - Capitalizing on Opportunities that Lead to Self-reliance and Economic Prosperity,” the conference will focus on how communities have been successful in developing business opportunities. It will provide workshops on key areas that need to be considered, as Aboriginal communities continue their journey toward economic prosperity and self-reliance. To learn more and/or to register, click here.

STEP ATLANTIC
The Atlantic Canada branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP Atlantic) is pleased to present the following upcoming seminars:

- March 5, 2015, 2:30 pm to 5 pm — Selected Tax Planning Issues with Intervivos Trusts
  Speakers Rob Miedema, LLB, Boyne Clarke LLP, and Jim MacGowan, FCA, TEP, Deloitte, will lead the discussion on this topic.

- May 28, 2015, 2:30 pm to 5 pm — Estate Planning: Tips and Traps (followed by Annual Branch Meeting)
  Christine van Cauwenberghe, LLB, CFP, TEP, Investors Group (Winnipeg), will present on this topic.

For more information on these sessions and/or to register, click here.
MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

CPA SPONSORS CHAMBER LUNCHEON WITH MINISTER WHALEN
On March 25, 2015, under the CPA banner, professional accountants in Nova Scotia will sponsor a Halifax Chamber of Commerce luncheon featuring The Honorable Diana Whalen, Deputy Premier and Nova Scotia’s Minister of Finance and the Treasury Board. The luncheon will take place at the Atlantica Hotel Halifax (Guild Hall); registration opens at 11:30 am, followed by the lunch, which is expected to go until 1:30 pm.
For more info and/or to register, click here.

ATLANTIC BUSINESS OUTLOOK
The Conference Board of Canada is pleased to present, Atlantic Business Outlook, on April 9, 2015, 8:15 am to 12 pm, in Halifax, NS. The conference will provide an overview re: the impact of economic factors affecting the Atlantic Region. ICANS member Ann MacKenzie, CA, Executive Director of The Conference Board of Canada’s Atlantic Canada branch, will provide opening remarks and other speakers/presenters include: Carolyn Booth, Senior Vice-President, Atlantic Provinces, BMO Financial Group; Marie-Christine Bernard, Associate Director, Provincial Forecast, The Conference Board of Canada; Glen Hodgson, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist, The Conference Board of Canada; Fred Morley, Executive Vice-President and Chief Economist, Great Halifax Partnership; Mike Savage, Mayor, Halifax Regional Municipality; Ian Thompson, Associate Publisher, The Chronicle Herald; Bernie Miller, Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Office of Planning and Priorities; Karen Oldfield, President and CEO, Halifax Port Authority; Ian Smith, CEO, Clearwater Seafood Limited Partnership; and the Honorable Brian Tobin, Canadian Politician and Vice-Chair, BMO Capital Markets, BMO Financial Group.
For more information and/or to register, click here.

CPA SPONSORS FEI DINNER WITH MINISTER WHALEN
On April 22, 2015, under the CPA banner, professional accountants in Nova Scotia will sponsor FEI Atlantic Provinces Chapter Dinner, featuring The Honorable Diana Whalen, Deputy Premier and Nova Scotia’s Minister of Finance and the Treasury Board. Being held at The Halifax Club, the event begins at 6 pm with a networking reception, followed by dinner at 6:45 pm and Minister Whalen’s presentation.
Tickets are $75 plus HST; additional information re: registration will be communicated in the near future.

CFA SOCIETY ATLANTIC CANADA’S ANNUAL FORECAST DINNER
Mark your calendar now . . . the CFA Society Atlantic Canada’s Annual Forecast Dinner will be held in Halifax, NS, on May 21, 2015 from 5 pm to 9 pm. Details TBA; check here for updates.

CAAA’S 2015 ACADEMIC ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) is holding its annual conference in Toronto, ON, May 28 to 31, 2015. Accounting research encompasses a variety of accounting contexts (i.e. capital markets, accounting history, managerial and financial accounting, auditing, etc.) and employs a variety of methodological approaches (i.e. quantitative, qualitative, critical studies, etc.). The goal of the 2015 conference is to showcase the pluralism of accounting research and, as such, CAAA invites submissions of papers which, together, will reflect the plurality of accounting research; the submission of studies in accounting education and teaching cases are also encouraged. To learn more, please click here.
CONTINUING EDUCATION

The gateway to your continuing education is just a click away! Browse through CPA Canada’s web communities and what you’ll find is a diverse range of in-class and on-line learning opportunities in core areas such as income tax and financial reporting, and in unique practice areas and industries such as information security and corporate finance. You’ll also find weekly information updates on key tax, technology, financial reporting, practice management and other topics, in addition to easy registration options and improved access to hundreds of hours of verifiable CPD credits in convenient, easily accessible and affordable e-Learning formats, including 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 . . .

- **Feb. 10 - 11** in Toronto, ON — 2015 Navigating and Resolving Tax Disputes

- **Mar. 2 - 3** in Calgary, AB — 2015 Commodity Tax Symposium (West)

- **Mar. 9 - 10** in Toronto, ON — 2015 CPA Canada’s Not-for-Profit Financial Executive Forum

- **Mar. 25 - 26** (optional workshop on the 27th) in Toronto, ON — 2015 Conference on IT Audit, Governance and Security ; or **Mar. 25 - 27** in Toronto, ON — 2015 Fundamentals of IT Audit (a three day workshop)

- **Summer/Fall 2015** (location TBC) — 2015 Foundations in International Tax

Also available . . .

- **IFRS Online and Self-Study Certificate Program** — Offered in cooperation with the AICPA, this program includes an integrated curriculum of 25 online self-study courses developed by subject matter experts from around the world. The scenario-based series of courses uses audio, video, interactive exercises and context-rich case studies to guide you through the concepts under each area of IFRS. Complete all courses in the curriculum to earn up to 42 CPD hours and be eligible to receive a certificate. You can also choose to take only the courses you need to focus your time and money on addressing specific challenges.

*For information on all CPA Continuing Education courses, conferences and products, please visit: [http://www.cica.ca/career-and-professional-development/index.aspx](http://www.cica.ca/career-and-professional-development/index.aspx).*
CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .
ICANS member Paul Sobey, FCA, on being named Chancellor of Saint Mary's University. In assuming this role, Paul follows in the tradition of his father, David Sobey, who served as the first lay Chancellor of the University from 2008 to 2010. Saint Mary’s officially installed Paul as Chancellor at the University's winter Convocation, held on January 24, 2015.

Dr. Paul Sobey, FCA, Chancellor, Saint Mary's University

At this same ceremony, ICANS’ CEO Michele Wood-Tweed, FCA, received a Doctor of Civil Law, Honoris Causa.

(L to R): Dr. Paul Sobey, FCA, Chancellor, Saint Mary's University; Dr. Michele Wood-Tweed, FCA, CEO, ICANS; and Dr. Colin Dodds, President and Vice-Chancellor, Saint Mary’s University.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Employment and volunteer opportunities can be found at http://www.icans.ns.ca/members/career-opportunities/item69073.aspx.
Check out the following:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Director of Finance - Soccer Nova Scotia

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Interim Asst. Controller (Term Position) Financial Services
- Halifax, NS
Professional Staff Accountant
- New Glasgow, NS
RFP - Acct. Software & Services
- Dartmouth, NS

Note: Other career opportunities, together with valuable information and guidance on career counseling, etc., can be found at CPA Source.

In addition, see Boomerswork ad on page # 9 for info re: part-time and term opportunities.

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

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES
◆ ICANS’ Annual Convocation
   Feb. 21 - World Trade & Convention Centre, Halifax
◆ CPA Sponsored Chamber Luncheon
   Mar. 25 - Atlantica Hotel Halifax
◆ CPA Sponsored FEI Dinner
   Apr. 22 - The Halifax Club

E-SCAN is a monthly publication of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia, distributed to members and students by e-mail. Copies of E-SCAN are available on the Institute’s website at www.icans.ns.ca.

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ON-LINE FUNCTIONALITY OPTIONS FOR ICANS MEMBERS

CPD Reporting
ICANS’ on-line CPD reporting functionality enables members to record their PD hours as the activity is undertaken. For more info, click here.

Registration
Members can register on-line for CPD opportunities and events. To learn how, click here.

Annual Fee Payment
As a member, you can pay your annual fee on-line; just click here and follow the steps.
Questions? Contact Danielle Roode, ICANS’ Membership Registrar, at droode@icans.ns.ca or by calling (902) 425-3291 ext. 31.

CONVOCATION 2015
Come Celebrate With Us!
FEBRUARY 21
AT THE WORLD TRADE & CONVENTION CENTRE IN HALIFAX

CONVOCATION 2015
Feb. 21 - World Trade & Convention Centre, Halifax