MICHELE WOOD-TWEEL APPOINTED TO CPA CANADA
ICANS President Doug Reid, FCA, issued the following communication to all ICANS members and registered students on March 20, 2015:

“It is with mixed emotions that I write to advise that ICANS CEO and Executive Director Michele Wood-Tweel, FCA, will be joining CPA Canada effective May 1, 2015 as Vice President Regulatory Affairs.

Based in Halifax, Michele will report to the Chair of the Public Trust Committee and will be responsible for providing the staff support to the Council of Chief Executive’s Public Trust Committee, including its various committees, task forces and working groups. This includes supporting the development of common regulatory structures and processes for all provincial and territorial CPA bodies that are at least as robust as international standards in appropriate areas of regulation.

In her nearly ten years at ICANS, Michele has worked tirelessly to advance our profession in Nova Scotia, and has represented us with distinction at the national level. Michele served as Chair of the Member Relations Task Force for the CA profession for several years and is currently the Chair of the CPA profession's Professional Learning and Development Strategy Committee. Over the past four years she has been an extraordinarily effective advocate for the unification of the profession in Nova Scotia.

Michele has set a powerful example for others in our profession, and on behalf of all of you, I extend to her our heartfelt thanks for the nearly ten years of great leadership and wish Michele every success in her new and exciting role at CPA Canada.”

GORDON MOORE APPOINTED AS ICANS’ CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ICANS Council is pleased to announce that Gordon Moore, FCA, has been appointed CEO and Executive Director of ICANS, effective May 1, 2015.

Gordon is a retired Partner of KPMG LLP and in the past year he has been assisting ICANS, as the Institute continues to move through the unification process. That said, Gordon’s involvement with ICANS spans nearly 40 years. After earning his CA in 1976, Gordon proceeded to get involved with a number of Institute committees including By-Laws, Professional Standards Review, Harmonizing Environment, Standards, Audit and the By-Laws Review Task Force. In 1998, he was elected to the ICANS Council, where he served on the Executive from 2003 to 2007 and was President from 2006 to 2007. In addition, Gordon has chaired the Accounting Education Foundation of Nova Scotia since 2005 and he was a CICA Ethics Standards Harmonization Committee member from 2000 to 2006. All this directly speaks to Gordon’s commitment to the accounting profession and to ensuring a smooth transition to a unified organization.
UNITING THE CANADIAN ACCOUNTING PROFESSION

All 40 accounting bodies in Canada have either unified or are participating in discussions to unite under the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) banner. Below is the latest update re: the unification of Canada’s accounting profession, plus a list of unification resources and ways you can connect with CPA Canada. You can also click here to access a list of CPA Canada unification news updates.

LATEST NEWS

British Columbia Legislature Passes CPA Act — CPA Canada posted an update on March 10, 2015 to announce that The Chartered Professional Accountants Act passed its third and final reading in the British Columbia Legislature on March 4, 2015. Although the Act has received passage in the Legislature, it will not become a law until it receives Royal Assent and is signed by the Lieutenant Governor. As a law, it comes into effect at the time of proclamation, which is determined by the Cabinet. Meanwhile, the update stipulates that the existing accounting bodies will continue to work together to formally establish the new unified regulatory body, the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia (CPABC). Over the coming months, the regulatory team will develop the new CPA Bylaws and Bylaw Regulations, and the Code of Professional Conduct.

UNIFICATION 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/).

• **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!

CPA CANADA COMMUNICATIONS

• **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).

• **Find CPA Canada on Facebook** — CPA Canada just got more social with a new Facebook page!

• **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 communication 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** — In January 2015, CPA Canada launched a new, integrated and dynamic e-newsletter for all members, students and candidates, called, Member News. Produced monthly, Member News automatically pulls new content from the CPA Canada website to deliver unique e-newsletters that are personalized to every reader based on their individual preferences (i.e. the topics and interests you identify in the preference centre). All subscribers can update their communication preferences at any time by visiting My Account. Note: Member News also includes topics from recently decommissioned e-newsletters, such as CPA Today.
In conjunction with the verification processes, as outlined in CPD Bulletin #3, the PD Committee approved the following verification work to be undertaken in relation to the 3 year period ending December 31, 2013 (being the second 3 year CPD cycle):

1. Verification of Reported Hours
2. Verification of Circumstances reported as a basis for Relief Requests

The verification work has been completed and the PD Committee has determined that, consistent with the past, it is appropriate to report on this matter to the membership.

1. Verification of Reported Hours

A. CPD Logs
CPD Bulletin #3 provides that members are required to maintain a CPD log for each calendar year. The CPD logs are to contain the date, the nature and the provider of the activity, the competency addressed, the numbers of hours undertaken and a categorization of the hours as either “Verifiable” or ‘Other’.

Results
- In one instance, the member was unable to provide the required CPD log for one of the years.
- In a limited number of instances, the hours as shown on the CPD logs did not tie into the hours previously reported to the Institute by the members.
- In a number of instances, the logs did not contain adequate details relating to the date, the activity, the provider, the competency, or whether or not it was a “Verifiable” or “Other” activity.

The foregoing matters have been brought to the attention of the individual members, as applicable, and those members have been advised that these issues must be corrected on a go-forward basis.

B. Supporting Documentation
CPD Bulletin #3 provides that members are required to retain documents, which evidence completion of the activity, which they have reported as verifiable.

Results
- In a limited number of instances, the member was unable or unwilling, for confidentiality reasons, to provide the requested documentation. In these circumstances, the hours were not counted towards the member’s minimum requirement and, in the appropriate circumstances, the member was required to provide supporting documents for alternate selections.
- The documentation which the members provided was varied and depended, to a large extent, upon the type of PD activity (i.e. conference, meeting, development of a paper, etc.). In a number of instances, it was concluded that the documentation did not:
  - identify the subject matter of the learning activity;
  - support the hours reported; and/or
  - connect the member to the activity.

As was the case with the CPD logs, any matters relating to deficient documentation have been brought to the attention of the individual members, as applicable, and those members have been advised that these issues must be corrected on a go-forward basis.

At the culmination of this cycle’s verification process, the PD Committee considered the results and developed further guidance on the documentation requirements related to verifiable study. This guidance is contained in the document entitled “Guideline - Documentation Requirements - Verifiable Study”. The PD Committee believes this will be of benefit to the membership, as it clarifies the Committee’s expectations in this area.
### ICANS' 2015 SPRING PD PROGRAM

Below is a list of ICANS courses being offered in **May 2015** - click on each course title for details and/or click [here](#) to access a copy of the full spring brochure; to register for a course, click [here](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical Project Management</td>
<td>PD15160221</td>
<td>May 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting, Auditing and Professional Practice Update</td>
<td>PD15160011</td>
<td>May 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASPE: Disclosure &amp; Presentation - From Standards to Words</td>
<td>PD15160021</td>
<td>May 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who You Are is How You Lead: Unleashing Leadership Excellence</td>
<td>PD15160211</td>
<td>May 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Valuations - Introduction</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due Diligence for Acquisitions</td>
<td>PD15160081</td>
<td>May 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principles &amp; Practices of Business Acquisitions</td>
<td>PD15160101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everyday Income Tax Issues for the General Practitioner</td>
<td>PD15160271</td>
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<td>Tax Planning for Private Enterprises on Business Succession</td>
<td>PD15160361</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Issues in Shutting Down a Corporation (am)</td>
<td>PD15160351</td>
<td>May 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Issues for Private Corporate Groups (pm)</td>
<td>PD15160341</td>
<td>May 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Tax Planning Refresher for Corporate Tax Planning (2 days)</td>
<td>PD15160321</td>
<td>May 21 &amp; 22</td>
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**PD Questions?**

Contact Danielle Roode at droode@icans.ns.ca or by calling 902-425-3291, ext. 31.

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**2. Verification of Circumstances reported as a basis for Relief Requests**

CPD Bulletin #3 contemplates the undertaking of a verification process in relation to the circumstances reported as being the basis for granting an exemption from the CPD requirements.

**Results**

- There were no issues identified as a result of the procedures undertaken.

The PD Committee believes that by reporting in this manner to the membership:

- A) Members will be reminded again as to the CPD requirements;
- B) Members will have a much better understanding of the supporting documentation requirements; and
- C) Members will be retaining the appropriate documentation at the time they identify and log the activity as verifiable PD.

If you have any questions concerning the CPD requirements or the verification process, please contact Danielle Roode, Membership Registrar, at 902-425-3291 ext. 31 or at droode@icans.ns.ca; or Gregory Crosby, Director of Regulatory Affairs, at 902-425-3291 ext. 24 or at gcrosby@icans.ns.ca.
HOUSEHOLD DEBT REPORT

As stated in a media release issued by CPA Canada on March 30, 2015, many Canadian households do not feel threatened by today's unsettled economy, yet they are vulnerable because of high debt levels; this according to research conducted for CPA Canada.

With a sharp decline in oil prices and other signs of a weakening economy, CPA Canada commissioned a public opinion poll in the winter of 2015, as a follow-up to a similar survey conducted in the spring of 2014. The research allowed the organization to gauge if Canadian households were viewing their financial positions differently amid the increasing economic uncertainty.

In particular, the survey found that Canadians on a whole feel that they are doing alright financially and living comfortably despite the unsettled economic climate. Canadian households also rate themselves highly in terms of financial discipline, but they are not taking action to plan for potential changes in the economy.

“It may be a matter of perception,” says Kevin Dancey, FCPA, FCA, President and CEO, CPA Canada. “Factors such as lower interest rates, cheaper gas and a strengthening U.S. economy may have some people thinking things are just fine. However, no matter what happens with the economy over the coming months, the lingering issue of high debt levels cannot be ignored.”

The report reveals a number of troublesome findings:

- More than half (53 per cent) of non-retired households said they did not save on a regular basis, even though the majority (65 per cent) of all households assessed the level of their financial discipline as somewhat or very strong;

- Only 60 per cent of households with debt said they paid off a portion of their debt on a regular basis;

- A mere 16 per cent expected a negative change in their personal financial situation, because of the changing economic outlook;

- Over half (51 per cent) of non-retired households said they do not have special reserve fund for unexpected financial emergencies (in addition to regular savings for other purposes).

The media release also noted that households in some regions felt more vulnerable than others. In Alberta, 34 per cent of respondents said that their personal financial situation would worsen due to changes in economic conditions. This is highly likely due to the lower oil prices affecting the province.

The CPA Canada report underscores the need for Canadians to get a better grasp of their financial situation.

“Canadian households must pay attention to economic indicators in order to protect themselves against future financial shocks,” says Joy Thomas, FCPA, FCMA, Executive Vice President, CPA Canada. “Achieving wide-spread behavioral change won’t be easy and may require a broad-based, open national dialogue involving governments and other stakeholders to develop effective solutions. We are pleased that the federal government appointed Jane Rooney as Canada’s first Financial Literacy Leader in an effort to help Canadians save more, spend less and reduce debt.”

For more information about the report, visit www.cpacanada.ca/debt.
FINANCIAL LITERACY LEADER HELPS CPA CANADA CELEBRATE OUTREACH PROGRAM

CPA Canada issued a media release on March 25, 2015 to announce that financial literacy and an extensive outreach program coordinated by CPA Canada took centre stage on March 24 at a special event in Vancouver, BC.

In particular, the media release stated that the evening served as both a volunteer appreciation and awareness reception for CPA Canada’s Community Connect program — a national financial literacy initiative. Note: There are 11,000 professional accountants registered, trained and prepared to conduct free financial seminars in communities across the country, as part of the program. The goal is to help Canadians gain the skills, knowledge and confidence required to make the best financial decisions, based on their individual circumstances.

Canada’s financial literacy leader, Jane Rooney, was the keynote speaker at the event.

“CPA Canada’s Community Connect program is instrumental in achieving our goal of improving financial literacy in British Columbia and throughout Canada,” said Jane. “I congratulate the impressive number of CPA volunteers who are stepping up to provide Canadians with free financial education sessions.”

As noted in the media release, Community Connect is now into its third year. The program played a key role in earning CPA Canada international recognition from the Institute for Financial Literacy, based in the United States. In 2014, CPA Canada became the first non-U.S. entity to be named Organization of the Year in the non-profit sector by the Institute.

A variety of Community Connect session topics fall under the financial literacy umbrella, including: Taxation; Estate Planning; Saving Strategies; and Teaching Kids About Money.

“It is the passion of our volunteer members that has been absolutely critical to the program’s success,” said Cairine Wilson, Vice-President, Corporate Citizenship, CPA Canada. “With their assistance, we have propelled this program to the forefront of financial literacy undertakings in Canada and look forward to expanding its reach in the year ahead.”

In fact — as highlighted in the media release — CPA Canada and the office of the Financial Literacy Leader are working together to develop and launch a workplace program.

“The workplace provides an effective avenue to reach people,” explained Cairine. “Workplace programs allow individuals to receive valuable information in a convenient manner.”

In addition, the media release stated that CPA Canada is also targeting Community Connect financial education sessions aimed specifically at post-secondary students and will be working with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to develop new sessions on tax literacy for students, newcomers and business owners.

For more info on this topic, please contact Tobin Lambie, Principal, Media, CPA Canada, at 416-204-3228 or at tlambie@cpacanada.ca; or contact Diana Sorace, Media Relations, CPA Canada, at 604-694-6700 or at dsorace@cpacanada.ca.

AEFNS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

If you are involved in an accounting education initiative and need support, consider reaching out to the Accounting Education Foundation of Nova Scotia (AEFNS). Consistent with its objectives, AEFNS accepts proposals for projects/programs that will provide Nova Scotia educational institutions with the additional resources needed to strengthen the quality of accounting education in the province, improve communication with the academic community, and help attract outstanding candidates to the accounting profession.

That said, there are a wide variety of initiatives that are consistent with AEFNS's mission, including:

- Curriculum development;
- Research assistance;
- Teaching awards;
- Student awards;
- Support for accounting student activities; and
- Sponsorship of guest speakers

Proposals should include a description of the initiative, the approximate amount of required funding, and a project time frame. The next deadline for proposals is April 30, 2015. For more info and/or questions, click here or contact Wenda Bennett, CA, at wbennett@icans.ns.ca or by calling 902-425-3291 ext. 26.
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 these recent Tax Blog posting from Gabe Hayos, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D, Vice-President, Taxation and National Practice Area Leader, CPA Canada:

- **Evaluating the CRA and Finance: Auditor General Consultations** — The Office of the Auditor General of Canada is consulting the tax community on possible future audit topics for the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Department of Finance. Click here to read Gabe’s Tax Blog and find out the views that stakeholders shared at a recent CPA Canada roundtable.

- **Form T1135** — CPA Canada’s webinar on Form T1135 generated many questions. For answers, click here to access Gary’s Tax Blog on the subject.

Gabe Hayos, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D, Vice-President, Taxation and National Practice Area Leader, CPA Canada

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NEW RESOURCES • PROGRAMS • BRIEFINGS • ALERTS • PUBLICATIONS • NEWSLETTERS

- **Client Briefing Now Available: Canadian Standard for Related Services (CSRS) 4460** — Need guidance on helping your client understand what they need to know and do when they receive third-party requests to provide supplementary information? CPA Canada has issued Client Briefing for Practitioners, to help you explain to your clients what’s involved when they receive a request from a regulator, funder or other third party for a report on supplementary matters. Download the full [Client Briefing: Canadian Standard for Related Services (CSRS) 4460](#) to learn more.

- **Free Update to Guide to ASPE: Chapter 45 Financial Instruments** — A new update to Chapter 45 Financial Instruments from the Guide to Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises provides support in applying the standard, including helpful tools to illustrate the requirements. The chapter also includes a handy decision flow chart on how to apply Section 3856 Financial Instruments from the CPA Handbook - Accounting. Download your free copy of Chapter 45 Financial Instruments from the complete Guide to Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises.

- **New Financial Reporting Alert Issued: 2014 Annual Improvements to ASPE** — Stay tuned on the 2014 Annual Improvements to Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises (ASPE), issued by the Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) in October 2014, which includes amendments to Section 3856, Financial Instruments. This [Financial Reporting Alert](#) from CPA Canada provides important detail on what the annual improvements are, the key changes to accounting for a hedging term and the disclosure of impairments, as well as the transitional requirements and audit implications associated with the amendments to the section.

- **New Audit and Assurance Alert Released: CAS 610, Using the Work of Internal Auditors** — This Audit and Assurance Alert on Canadian Audit Standard (CAS) 610, Using the Work of Internal Auditors, raises awareness about the requirements pertaining to the use of internal auditors to provide direct assistance on the audit in accordance with CAS 610. Issued by CPA Canada, the alert highlights such topics as: “How to Determine Whether Internal Auditors Can Be Used to Provide Direct Assistance for Purposes of the Audit”; “The Nature and Extent of Work That Can Be Assigned to Internal Auditors Providing Direct Assistance”; “How to Use Internal Auditors to Provide Direct Assistance”; and, “Important Details on Audit Documentation Requirements”. To access this Audit and Assurance Alert, click [here](#).

- **Helping Accountants Add Value in the Face of Climate Change** — A new [strategic initiative](#), sponsored by CPA Canada and Natural Resources Canada, and managed by the Network for Business Sustainability, says accountants are ideally positioned to be key players in helping organizations adapt to climate change; yet, few resources are currently available for helping accountants provide effective guidance on this issue. The initiative, “Enabling Canadian Chartered Professional Accountants to Adapt to a Changing Climate and Emerging Operating Environment,” aims to address the lack of climate change resources available for accountants by developing case studies, guidance on how to apply existing competencies and professional development opportunities — all based on extensive research and stakeholder consultation. More information will become available in the months ahead. In the meantime, if this is an area of interest to you or your organization, please contact Monica Sood, Principal, Sustainability, Research Guidance and Support, CPA Canada, at msood@cpacanada.ca.

- **The Evolution of Trust in Business: From Delivery to Values** — This [World Economic Forum report](#) explores new approaches for trust building. To learn more, please click [here](#).

- **Equity-Based Alternatives to Stock Options** — Are stock options the most appropriate form of equity-based compensation being used by public companies? Equity-Based Alternatives to Stock Options provides an overview of equity-based compensation alternatives for Canadian public companies. To learn more, please click [here](#).

- **Good Governance for Not-for-Profit (NFP) Organizations: Questions for Directors** — Help the NFP organization you serve as a director be as effective and productive as possible by ensuring it has the right governance framework. To learn more, please click [here](#).

- **Global Risk Survey: Reputation @ Risk** — Read about how businesses are managing reputation risk in this report on a global survey of more than 300 executives from major companies around the world. To learn more, please click [here](#).

- **FYI Article - Narrow-scope Amendments: Improving IFRSs** — This article explains what a narrow-scope amendment is and provides information on those issued and under development. To read, click [here](#).

- **FYI Article - 2015 Annual Improvements: Proposed Clarifications to the Standards** — This article discusses the AcSB’s recently issued Exposure Draft regarding disclosures of business combinations and impairments, and the measurement of a defined benefit plan obligation. To read, click [here](#).

- **FYI Article - IFRS 9: Finally . . . Much-needed Improvements to the Financial Instruments Standard** — This article discusses the key features of IFRS 9 and potential financial reporting impact. To reach, click [here](#).
Attention all families with senior high school students . . . ICANS is now accepting applications for its 2015 Scholarship Awards Program. The program offers four, $1,000 scholarship awards to students who are graduating from high school in June 2015 and who will be attending university in September 2015 to pursue a bachelors degree in business or commerce. Scholarship applications have been distributed to every high school in Nova Scotia, plus copies are available by clicking here or visiting the ICANS website.

Note: The application deadline is April 24, 2015. Questions? Please contact ICANS’ Communications Consultant, Joy Barkhouse, at communication@icans.ns.ca or by calling 902-425-3291 ext. 29.

CRA UPDATES

- **MyCRA Mobile App** — The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has launched a new mobile app for individuals called, MyCRA. The app lets people securely access and view tax information, wherever they are, on their mobile device; information, such as:
  - your tax information (log in required), including notices of assessment, return status, and RRSP deduction and tax-free savings account (TFSA) contribution room;
  - benefit and credit payment dates;
  - a directory of EFILE tax professionals and a listing of free tax filing software;
  - the date and location of Community Volunteer Income Tax Program clinics; and,
  - the CRA’s Charities Listings - making it easier to choose and donate to a charity.

  MyCRA is available on all mobile devices with Internet access. Note: Since you may be using your mobile data when using MyCRA, your carrier’s standard data charges may apply. For more info on MyCRA and other mobile apps available from the CRA, click on: www.cra.gc.ca/mobileapps.

- **CRA Income Tax Folio Series: Interest Deductibility** — On March 6, 2015, the CRA released S3-F6-C1, *Interest Deductibility*, as part of its tax folio publication series. You can access the publication by clicking here or by going through the Income Tax Folio Index.

- **CRA’s Voluntary Disclosures Program (VDP)** — Did you know that, by filing a valid voluntary disclosure with CRA, you pay only the taxes you owe and interest, and may avoid penalties and potential prosecution related to the information accepted under the program? The disclosure must be voluntary, meaning you have to file a valid disclosure before you become aware that the CRA is taking action against you. Anyone can use the VDP, including: individuals, businesses, employers, payers, trusts and estates, residents and non-residents of Canada. A valid disclosure must meet all four of the following conditions:
  - It must be voluntary;
  - a penalty applies to it;
  - the mistake or omission must be at least one year overdue; and
  - it must be complete and include all appropriate information.

  You can disclose the following type of information: unfiled income tax returns, GST/HST returns; unfiled information returns (e.g. T4, T4A-NR, NR4, T1135, T106); unreported income earned inside or outside Canada while a resident of Canada; unremitting withholding taxes paid to residents or non-residents of Canada (e.g. Regulation 105, Part XIII, GST/HST); and, errors, mistakes or omissions not included in your previous dealings with CRA. Information not accepted under the VDP includes: bankruptcy returns, income tax returns with no taxes owing or with refunds expected; elections; advance pricing arrangements; rollover provisions; and, taxpayer relief requests. To make a voluntary disclosure, complete and sign form RC199, VDP - Taxpayer Agreement or send a letter with the same info as the RC199 to the tax centre responsible for your submission. If an authorized representative is submitting the documentation on your behalf, they must also include Form T1013, Authorizing or Cancelling a Representative or Form RC59, Business Consent, confirming your consent. To learn more about CRA’s VDP, click here.

- **Tax Scams** — Click here to access some important facts re: tax scams and how you can protect yourself.
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 Exposure Draft - 2015 Annual Improvements to Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises** — The AcSB has issued an Exposure Draft proposing amendments that will affect private enterprises and not-for-profit organizations. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments, on the form provided, by May 26, 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.

- **PSAB Consultation Paper - Conceptual Framework Fundamentals and the Reporting Model** — The PSAB’s Conceptual Framework Task Force has issued Consultation Paper 3 that proposes a new reporting model and draft principles on public sector characteristics, financial statement objectives, qualitative characteristics, elements, recognition, measurement and presentation. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments, on the form provided, by August 31, 2015. To learn more, click here.

- **Basis for Conclusions: Subsidiaries - Section 1591** — This document sets out how the AcSB reached its conclusions. As well, it sets out significant matters arising from comments received to its Exposure Draft and indicates how the Board dealt with the issues raised. To read, click here.

- **Basis for Conclusions: Joint Arrangements - Section 3051 and 3056** — This document sets out how the AcSB reached its conclusions. As well, it sets out significant matters arising from comments received to its Exposure Draft and indicates how the Board dealt with the issues raised. To read, click here.

- **Basis for Conclusions: Inter-Entity Transactions - Section PS 3420** — This document sets out how the PSAB reached its conclusions. As well, it sets out significant matters arising from comments received in response to its Exposure Drafts and indicates how the Board dealt with the issues raised. To read, click here.

- **Basis for Conclusions: Related Party Disclosures - Section PS 2200** — This document sets out the PSAB reached its conclusions. As well, it sets out significant matters arising from comments received to its Exposure Drafts and indicates how the Board dealt with the issues raised. To read, 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 counsels are affected by the new JPS. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments by April 6, 2015. To learn more, click here.

- **AASB Exposure Draft - Auditor’s Consent to the Use of a Report of the Auditor Included in an Offering Document** — The AASB has issued an Exposure Draft that proposes limited amendments to Section 7150, primarily to address the requirements of stock exchanges (recognized by securities regulatory authorities in Canada) for the auditor’s consent to include certain statements. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments by May 1, 2015. To learn more, click here.

- **AASB Exposure Draft - Association** — The AASB issued an Exposure Draft of a proposed new standard that would replace existing Section 5020, Association. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments, on the form provided, by July 10, 2015. To learn more, click here.

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**CPA Canada Exposure Draft - Proposed Revisions to Independence Standards** — The Independence Task Force of the Public Trust Committee has proposed changes to the CPA profession’s code of ethics on independence standards, addressing a breach of the standards and contingent fees. The Exposure Draft and further information can be accessed by clicking here. Members from the profession are encouraged to submit their comments to CPA Canada by May 15, 2015.
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 - 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.

  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 **April 17, 2015**. To learn more, click here.

- **IASB Exposure Draft - Classification of Liabilities (Proposed amendments to IAS 1)** — The IASB has issued an Exposure Draft proposing amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements. Canadian stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments to the IASB by **June 10, 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 **June 10, 2015**. To learn more, click here.

- **IAASB Exposure Draft - Reporting on Audited Financial Statements: Special Considerations** — The IAASB has issued an Exposure Draft that proposes changes to ISA 800, Special Considerations - Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks, and ISA 805, Special Considerations - Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement. Canadian stakeholders are encouraged to provide their comments to the IAASB by **April 22, 2015**. To learn more, click here.

CPA CANADA VOLLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Oil and Gas Task Force on IFRSs** — This task force is currently seeking a member working in this industry (e.g. CFO, VP Finance, Controller) to join the task force. For more info, click here.

- **Mining Industry Task Force on IFRSs** — This task force is currently seeking a member working in this industry (e.g. CFO, VP Finance, Controller) to join the task force. For more info, click here.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

- **IFRS Discussion Group** — The AcSB is currently seeking new members with a preference for financial statement preparers, users and individuals from a mid-tier accounting firm. For more info, click here; resumes must be submitted by **April 24, 2015**.

CPA CANADA WEBINARS

To view all CPA Canada webinars, click here.

**Upcoming Webinars**

- **IFRS and Global Standards: A Canadian Perspective** (April 13, 2015)
- **Canadian Public Company Financial Reporting Update Webinar** (May 5, 2015)
- **Embracing Change You Didn’t Ask For** (May 13, 2015)

**Recent Webinars**

- Governance For Not-For-Profit Organizations: Questions For Directors To Ask
- Principal Residence Exemption: Learn to Analyze and Determine
- Management’s Discussion and Analysis: Guidance on Preparation and Disclosure
- Questions Directors of NFP Organizations Should Ask About Social Enterprise
- Consolidations, Joint Arrangements and Investments: Project News for Private Enterprises
- Being on the Leading Edge! Webinar on Hiring Trends for Accountants in 2015

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

ICANS MEMBER SPEAKS AT CAFE EVENT
Are you an executor for a business owner or a business owner thinking about choosing an executor? If so, consider registering for Executor School! Presented by the Canadian Association of Family Enterprise (CAFE), Nova Scotia Chapter, this session will be held on April 9, 2015, 11:45 am to 1:30 pm, at the Holiday Inn Harbourview (Banook Room) in Dartmouth, NS. Guest speaker Mark Winfield, FCA, Partner, BDO, will present an overview, with ‘real-life’ case study scenarios of the legal, financial and income tax responsibilities of the executor. For more info and/or to register, click here.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (FMI) OF CANADA LEARNING SESSIONS
- CPA Canada’s Professional Business and Accounting Credential — FMI Canada is hosting a professional development learning session at the Halifax Club on April 15, 2015; registration begins at 8:30 am and the session goes from 9 to 11:30 am. At the session, Anne-Marie Gammon, MBA, FCMA, CEO of CPA Atlantic School of Business, will provide attendees with an understanding of recent changes to Canada’s accounting landscape and how it affects those wishing to become accountants, who are accountants, and those that rely on accountants. Following this brief overview, Anne-Marie will outline the new CPA accreditation path, including paths for those who may or may not have studied accounting and the many roles for which the thorough and varied CPA material and experience will prepare you. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers. For more information and/or to register, click here or send an email to halifax@fmi.ca — the registration deadline is April 10, 2015.

- Public Sector Management Workshop (PSMW) 2015 — Being held May 24 to 26, 2015, at the Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, BC, the theme of PSMW 2015 is “Growth and Productivity - The Way Forward”. The conference will focus on how government can respond to lower economic growth and productivity in the Canadian economy. The keynote speaker will be Stuart Newton, Comptroller General of the Province of British Columbia, and he will be speaking on the topic of “Government’s Role in Influencing Economic Growth and Productivity”. For more info, click here to watch the following short video; or click here to watch the full version. To save on registration, register before April 15. More info can be found on the PSMW 2015 website.

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 of Nova Scotia. 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 $80 plus HST. Registration forms were emailed to all ICANS members. However, if you need a form, click here; and, if you have questions about the dinner, please contact Carolyn Gaskin at ICANS by calling 902-425-3291 ext. 25 or via email at cgaskin@icans.ns.ca.
2015 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRIMES INVESTIGATORS CONFERENCE
The Toronto Police Services - Financial Crimes is hosting the 2015 International Financial Crimes Investigators Conference from April 27 to May 1, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Toronto International Airport. The conference will provide attendees with an opportunity to gain valuable insight into the efforts to curb financial crimes from an international list of speakers. For more info and/or to register, click here or connect with a member of the conference committee by sending an email to: 2015.ifcic@torontopolice.on.ca.

ATLANTIC CANADA CFA SOCIETY 2015 FORECAST DINNER
The Atlantic Canada CFA Society’s 2015 Forecast Dinner will be held in Halifax, NS, on May 20, 2015 at Casino Nova Scotia; reception is from 5 to 6:15 pm in the Compass Room and dinner is from 6:15 to 8:30 pm in the Schooner Room. This year’s forecasting presentation will be delivered by Dr. Jeremy J. Siegel from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. The registration deadline is May 1, 2015. For more info and/or to register, click here or contact cfaatlantic@cfaatlantic.com.

CPA CANADA - AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
On May 27, 2015, help honour leading public sector financial executives by attending the CPA Canada Awards of Excellence in Public Sector Financial Management dinner. Being held in Ottawa, ON, the event's keynote speaker will be Comptroller General Bill Matthews. For more information and/or to purchase tickets, click here.

CAA’S 2015 ACADEMIC ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAA) 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.

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

- 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 and/or to register, click here.
ON **JUNE 15th**, **WHEN THE GRASS IS (FINALLY!) GREEN AND THE WIND IS FRESH AND SALTY, WHERE WILL YOU BE?**

It’s time to clear your schedule and dust off your clubs as you get ready to join your colleagues and friends at ICANS’ 19th Annual Golf Tournament.

Being held at the Chester Golf Club, the tournament is open to all ICANS members and students. To access a registration form, click [here](https://www.cpacanada.ca/en/career). Questions? Contact Cindy Mombourquette at 902-425-3291 ext. 21 or at cmombourquette@icans.ns.ca.

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**CPA CONTINUING EDUCATION**

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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 . . .**

- **Apr. 20 - 21** in Toronto, ON — **2015 Corporate Finance Course: Valuation in Corporate Finance**
- **May 7** in *Toronto, ON — **2015 Accounting for Income Taxes**  *(Note: This course is also offered online)*
- **May 20 - 22** (third day optional) in Toronto, ON — **2015 Public Sector Financial Reporting and Accounting Course**
- **May 28 - 29** in Toronto, ON — **2015 Corporate Finance Course: Debt and Equity in Corporate Finance**
- **May 31 - Jun. 5** in Niagara Falls, ON — **2015 In-Depth HST/GST Course**
- **Jun. 15 - 16** in Toronto, ON — **2015 Forum on U.S. State and Local Taxes for Canadian Companies**
- **Summer/Fall 2015** *(location TBC)* — **2015 Foundations in International Tax**
- **Sept. 28 - 30** (third day optional) in Toronto, ON — **CPA Canada’s National Conference: The One 2015**

**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. To learn more, click [here](https://www.cpacanada.ca/en/career-and-professional-development/professional-development/conferences/2015/September/CPA-Canada-national-conference-The-One-2015).

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HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS

Marie Mullally, FCA, has been appointed Vice Chair of the Halifax International Airport Authority Board of Directors.

IN THE NEWS

Susan McIsaac, FCA, Partner, McIsaac Darragh Chartered Accountants, was quoted in a Chronicle Herald article (March 26, 2015, page B1) re: employment/work issues affecting Cumberland County.

CAREER OPPORTUNITES

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Committee Members, Board Members & Volunteers
- The Epilepsy Assoc. of Nova Scotia

Treasurer
- Brunswick Street Mission

Treasurer
- Cdn. Celiac Association, NS Chapter

Public Rep. for Council
- NS Barristers’ Society

Treasurer
- Girl Guides of Canada

Treasurer
- Point Pleasant Child Care Centre

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Audit Principal
- Halifax, NS

Audit Manager
- Halifax, NS

Director, Pre-Certification
- Halifax, NS

Automotive Dealership Controller
- 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 # 6 for info re: part-time and term opportunities.

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.

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- CPA Sponsored FEI Dinner
  Apr. 22 - The Halifax Club

- ICANS’ 2015 High School Scholarship Application Deadline
  Apr. 24

- ICANS’ Annual Meeting & Golf Tourney
  June 15 - Chester Golf & Country Club

- ICANS’ 2015 PD Week - Halifax
  Nov. 16 to 20 - WTCC

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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.

To unsubscribe from E-SCAN, please click here. Note: ICANS may continue to send certain types of communications electronically to you, such as factual notifications about your membership or other regulatory notifications.

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