

# Dividends

Summer 2023



## CPA ALBERTA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



**Meet the 29  
individuals  
who set the  
benchmark  
for excellence**

including Lifetime  
Achievement Award recipients  
**Dr. Karim Jamal** FCPA, FCA  
and **Colette Miller** FCPA, FCA

**PLUS**  
**AMPLIFY  
YOUR VOICE**

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BALLOT FOR THE  
2023 CPA ALBERTA  
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<sup>2</sup> To achieve maximum savings, clients must own their own homes. Clients who are tenants will realize lower savings.

<sup>3</sup> Internal statistics of The Personal: Number of policyholders who renewed their policies when their policy came up for renewal from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. The rate does not include mid-year term cancellations and terminations.





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# Dividends

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ISSN 2369-6710 PRINT  
ISSN 2369-6729 ONLINE



Dividends is published by CPA Alberta.  
The magazine is distributed to more than 30,000 readers.

Dividends explores the issues and opportunities faced by Alberta CPAs and celebrates their achievements. It also keeps Alberta CPAs up to date and engaged with the profession and their colleagues.

## FROM THE PROFESSION

### Engagement

#### A message from Rachel Miller, CPA Alberta CEO



Rachel Miller FCPA, FCA

A trait that has served me well throughout my life is the ability to be fully engaged. Whether it be volunteering, cheering on my children in their accomplishments, or leading the great team at CPA Alberta, I commit to the moment and try to bring all of my passion, skills, and experience to that particular task.

The remarkable individuals who were recognized by the profession at the Elevate Awards Gala this year share, I am sure, a similar trait. Indeed, their tremendous accomplishments demonstrate the value of engaging deeply in those areas and organizations that are meaningful to them, in order to have a

positive impact. You can read more about this year's recipients starting on page six.

Speaking of being engaged, I would like to thank in advance all 11 of the Alberta CPAs who decided this year to put their names forward to serve on the CPA Alberta Board. Their willingness to commit their time and effort to the advancement of the profession in the province is laudable. I believe it is a pivotal time in our profession, and the new Board will have a strong opportunity to shape our future. Each candidate deserves the thanks of their colleagues for publicly putting their hand up and standing ready to serve.

I encourage each Alberta CPA to take the time to review each of the nominees—the vote information and profiles can be found starting on page 35—decide who would best act as your voice, and then cast a ballot. Doing so is a demonstration of your engagement in your profession.

### CPA Alberta strengthens leadership team

We welcome Gord Beal FCPA FCA, M.Ed, the newly appointed Senior Vice President of Outreach at CPA Alberta.

Gord will be an integral part of the leadership team, responsible for relationship building with post-secondary institutions and overseeing the operations of the CPA Education Foundation.

Gord previously worked at CPA Canada, where he led a team of senior professionals involved in research, technical guidance, and thought leadership development. He actively participated in the profession's unification process and collaborated closely with accounting bodies worldwide. Gord's leadership extended to knowledge development and education services, where he spearheaded projects for the implementation of international standards in financial reporting and various initiatives on sustainability as well as the future of the profession.



Gordon Beal FCPA, FCA

Gord's professional journey began in audit and accounting services with Clarkson Gordon and Ernst & Young. He held senior roles in finance and operations with the automotive, HVAC, and home healthcare industries. Additionally, he ran a successful consulting practice in business advisory services and was a senior learning consultant in Modern Controllership with the Ontario Ministry of Finance. Gord has also guided and supported various charitable organizations in financial and risk management, fundraising and board governance.

Outside of the profession, Gord is a passionate photographer and outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking, camping, and canoe trips.





## CPA PRO: Tailored professional development designed by the CPA profession

To excel as a CPA in an increasingly competitive professional world, staying current with the latest standards and best practices is crucial. This fall, the CPA profession is introducing CPA PRO—a suite of professional development courses authored by industry experts specifically for CPAs.

### **Q: What exactly is CPA PRO?**

**A:** The first of its kind, CPA PRO is professional development specifically designed by the CPA profession for Chartered Professional Accountants. These courses are curated by industry experts who understand the challenges and demands of your profession.

### **Q: How is CPA PRO different from CPA Alberta's current professional development courses?**

**A:** The key distinction lies in the fact that CPA PRO courses are developed directly by the CPA profession for CPAs. By choosing CPA PRO, you are tapping into the expertise and insights of the very profession you excel in.

CPA PRO takes a comprehensive approach to your professional growth, focusing on technical competencies, business acumen, and the latest updates on standards, legislation, and regulations.

Whether you strive to enhance your expertise, stay ahead of emerging industry trends, or propel your career to new heights, CPA PRO is your trusted partner on your professional journey.

### **Q: Can I access courses that fit my demanding schedule?**

**A:** Absolutely! We recognize the fast-paced nature of your life as a CPA. That's why CPA PRO offers a flexible array of learning options, including on-demand, in-person, and virtual courses.

Tailor your learning experience to your unique needs and preferences and embrace the freedom to learn at your own pace.

### **Q: Where can I access CPA PRO courses?**

**A:** Keep an eye out for the CPA PRO wordmark on courses available on CPA Alberta's Professional Development Portal ([go.cpaalberta.ca](https://go.cpaalberta.ca)).



**Level up your professional journey with CPA PRO.**

Designed exclusively for CPAs by the CPA profession, these courses enable you to adapt to industry changes and advance your career with up-to-date industry content.

**CPA PRO**

**It's time to embrace the future of professional development.**

[cpaalberta.ca/CPA-PRO](https://cpaalberta.ca/CPA-PRO)



## IN BALANCE

### Four reasons to use a niche job board



**HIRING?**

Tap into the power of the CPA Alberta Job Board, a niche job board that will significantly enhance your talent acquisition strategy. Attract individuals with specific expertise and extensive industry experience, resulting in a more targeted pool of applicants. Moreover, job seekers who frequent niche job boards tend to submit applications promptly and respond quickly to offers, streamlining the hiring process and saving valuable time and resources.

**Here are four more compelling reasons to integrate the CPA Alberta Job Board into your recruitment efforts:**



#### **Targeted boards understand your market**

Forget generic job descriptions; this is the platform where applicants truly comprehend the specific acronyms and jargon relevant to the CPA profession. Our job board caters specifically to accounting professionals, ensuring your target audience understands job titles, certifications, and keywords, which makes filling specialized roles even more efficient.



#### **Stand out from the crowd**

Niche job boards are smaller than mass-market job boards, making it easier to stand out when you post a job. CPA Alberta's Job Board offers additional branding opportunities like banner ads and other upgrades to boost your job posts and increase company awareness, providing you with more options to showcase your organization.



#### **Reduce costs and review time**

The process of sifting through numerous applications can be overwhelming and result in a waste of valuable company resources. The CPA Alberta Job Board can save valuable time and reduce the overall cost associated with filling a position by reducing the number of applicants you need to review while ensuring that the quality of candidates remains high.




#### **Gain insights from other job postings**

A niche job board like ours can give you the tools to compare your job posting to others with similar positions, enabling you to conduct a competitive analysis and gain insight into what applicants are looking for within the industry. This knowledge will enable you to align your job with the preferences and expectations of potential candidates, increasing the chances of success in attracting top talent.

#### **Try the CPA Alberta Job Board today!**

Maximize your response rate with our exclusive platinum package. Your job posting and employer profile will take the spotlight on our homepage, ensuring an impressive 18 per cent increase in views. Additionally, gain unlimited access to our extensive resume database. Visit [cpaalberta.ca/Job-Board](https://cpaalberta.ca/Job-Board) to learn more.



Briefings for your personal and professional success

## Be a tourist in your own backyard

**With a huge government boost rolling out to 50 tourism-focused projects across Alberta, now is the perfect time to play tourist.**

The \$17.8-million federal government investment will help Alberta's tourism industry continue to be a significant economic driver that attracts visitors to Alberta, supports local businesses, and sustains many jobs across the province.

But we're all familiar with the usual tourist destinations. Are you ready to explore parts of the beautiful province you call home you may not have heard of before? Here are some suggestions to get you started!

**Connect to the land with Mahikan Trails (Sundre):** Knowledgeable guides share historical Indigenous medicines of the boreal forest.

**Find your wild with Moose Mountain Horseback Adventures (Priddis):** Passionate guides lead trail rides and expedition adventures—all on horseback.

**Learn blacksmithing with Stone Wood & Steel (Millarville):** A master blacksmith teaches the foundations of creating decorative ironwork.

**Experience the distinct story of the Métis people at Métis Crossing (Smoky Lake):** Signature experiences provide interactive opportunities to learn Métis stories.

**Tour a brewery and honey house at Fallentimber Meadery (Water Valley):** Experienced hosts share the meadery's story—and mead.

**Venture into the mountains with Girth Hitch Guiding (Nordegg):** Climbing experts create safe and meaningful experiences in the mountains.

Source: [canada.ca/en/prairies-economic-development/news/2023/02/alberta-tourism-industry-receiving-new-federal-investments-through-prairiescan.html](https://canada.ca/en/prairies-economic-development/news/2023/02/alberta-tourism-industry-receiving-new-federal-investments-through-prairiescan.html)



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# Igniting Excellence



CPA ALBERTA  
**ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS**  
2023

*T*he 2023 CPA Alberta Achievement Award recipients are shining examples of excellence. We are proud to celebrate their awe-inspiring achievements that have made a lasting impact on the CPA profession, their communities, and the people and organizations they serve. With their unwavering commitment to innovation, leadership, and the highest standards of ethics and professionalism, these 29 remarkable individuals set the benchmark for excellence.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY [LAUGHING DOG PHOTOGRAPHY](#),  
[HARDERLEE PHOTOGRAPHY](#), [2D STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY](#)



# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



evered individuals who have dedicated their entire careers to advancing the profession, leaving an enduring legacy that inspires and influences others. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes Fellows of the Chartered Professional Accountants whose continued commitment to the betterment of their profession, their communities, and the organizations they have served has earned them distinction and brought honour to the profession.



LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS

“

*When I was a master's student at UBC, I got my first exposure to accounting research. I found it fascinating. I never knew accounting could be so exciting and interesting. Ever since, I have been like a missionary spreading the word of accounting and trying to advance knowledge and motivate students to understand accounting more thoughtfully and to be enthused about becoming an accountant.*

”

### Dr. Karim Jamal FCPA, FCA

Karim, Chair of the Department of Accounting and Business Analytics and a distinguished Professor at the Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta, has dedicated his career to advancing knowledge and fostering connections between practitioners, academics, and students.

As the Technical Editor for the Education section of *CA Magazine* and a member of various editorial boards, including *Accounting Perspectives* and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, Karim has played a pivotal role in ensuring that academic research is widely disseminated and practically applicable.

Beyond his professional commitments, Karim has volunteered his expertise on numerous committees and boards. These include the Department Audit Committee of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the University of Toronto (Mississauga) Professional Accounting Centre, Associates of Caritas (Part of Covenant Health), the Canadian Institute of Chartered Business Valuators, the Canadian Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, and the Centre for Enhanced Corporate Reporting.

Karim was integral to the University of Alberta establishing a Master of Accounting program, the first in Alberta. He received Fellowship in 2009.



## Colette Miller FCPA, FCA

Colette is a partner at Wilde & Company in Vegreville and co-founder of Wilde Advisory Group, a collective of professional service firms including accounting, legal, consulting, and IT. She specializes in owner-managed business, including taxation and estate and succession planning, municipal audit, and consulting and has a special interest in agricultural-related companies. Colette is known for her common-sense approach and ability to translate complex financial matters into understandable conversations.

Beyond her thriving practice, Colette is an active director both in the corporate world and within her community. Her board and committee experience includes notable positions for the Canadian Business Growth Fund, AVAC Ltd., and Covenant Health. In 2019, she completed a ten-year directorship with ATB Financial with experience as chair of the human resource and audit committees.

Colette's dedication to the profession is evident in her support to both CPA Alberta and CPA Canada, including serving on the Review and Nominations Committees and board of a CPA Canada predecessor body, and chairing the national Competency Map Committee, among other roles. Recognizing the power of education, Colette's commitment earned her induction into the Order of Athabasca for her past service on the Athabasca University Board. As an alumna of the University of Alberta Business program, she also lends her expertise as a member of the Rural eHub advisory board. Colette's community engagement extends to chairing the Elk Island Community Foundation and serving as a director of the Wendy Brook Music Festival Association, where she continues to make a positive impact.



“

*Community contribution is in my DNA—Mom and Dad were always volunteering and we grew up thinking that was normal. My professional commitment partially stems from highly valuing education and the opportunities that our designation provides. I feel strongly that if you want things to be better, you have to step up and be part of solutions. I am driven by learning, fun, and connecting with interesting people.*

”



## Yvonne Barthel FCPA, FCA

With more than 30 years of dedicated service, Yvonne has been a leader in her community and the accounting profession. She played a crucial role in advancing the strategic goals of the CPA Education Foundation, advocating for Indigenous student support and overseeing the creation of the Hesje CPA Knowledge Centre.

Yvonne's contributions extended to the Society for Christian Education in Southern Alberta, where she found innovative solutions to make specialized education accessible to low-income families.

As a champion for women in the CPA profession, she mentored aspiring female leaders and established the KPMG Women's Interchange Network in Lethbridge. Yvonne's lifelong commitment exemplifies the positive impact of CPA professionals on their communities and the profession as a whole.

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*"I chose the CPA designation initially as I enjoyed the challenges with number crunching. But I soon realized the people and relationships I developed throughout my career and the impact I could have as a CPA has been the most rewarding."*



# FELLOWS

## OF THE CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS



## Stephen Bergstrom FCPA, FCMA

For nearly two decades, Stephen has dedicated himself to the growth and development of the accounting community, earning great honour for his character and achievements. As an esteemed educator at multiple institutions, Stephen has positively impacted thousands of students through his passion, empathy, and innovative teaching methods. His commitment extends beyond the classroom as he actively volunteers and demonstrates leadership within the accounting community. Stephen's influence is evident at CPA convocation ceremonies, where he proudly presents graduating CPAs, symbolizing his significant contribution to their journeys.

Stephen's instrumental role in shaping the highly acclaimed SAIT School of Business Accounting Program and his creation of valuable learning experiences, such as the external audit simulation and accounting theory applied project, have elevated accounting education. His outstanding contributions have been recognized with prestigious awards, including the CPA Education Foundation Teaching prize and the Howard Teall Innovation in Accounting Education Award.

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*"[To me] 'leader' is a verb, not a noun; it's an action, not a job title. Some of the best, most inspiring leaders are not at the top of the organization chart; they're on the front lines instead."*





## Larry Brownoff FCPA, FCA

Larry is a dedicated community servant with an impressive record of volunteering. He held key volunteer positions at Goodwill Industries of Alberta, ensuring their financial stability during a transitional period, and made significant contributions to the Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association and the Good Shepherd Catholic Parish.

Larry's involvement extends to Financial Executives International (FEI) Canada and the FEI Edmonton Chapter, where he holds positions on the National Board and co-chairs committees focused on member recruitment, retention, and diversity. Within the accounting profession, he has served on the Merit Review Committee and the Members in Industry Working Group and authored and instructed CPD courses.

In his current role as Director of Member Relations at CPA Alberta, Larry uses his industry experience, extensive network of accounting professionals, financial acumen, and strong leadership to advance the organization, the profession, and Alberta CPAs.

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*"My CPA designation has opened many doors for me. It gives me credibility. That said, once the doors are opened, you have to earn the respect of those you are dealing with and truly establish a credible relationship."*



At the pinnacle of the profession, these esteemed leaders and visionaries embody the essence of integrity, expertise, and commitment. Fellowship is granted to CPAs whose achievements in their careers and the community have earned them distinction and brought honour to the profession.

## Christopher Burrows FCPA, FCA

Renowned for his commitment to excellence and dedication to the community, Chris embodies the best qualities of a CPA. His success in business and commitment to the community have established him as a recognized leader in the Edmonton business community.

Beyond his business accomplishments, Chris actively contributes to the accounting profession and the community. He mentors his accounting team; serves on civic, philanthropic, and educational boards; and engages in grassroots fundraising efforts. He played a vital role in transforming Norquest College into "Edmonton's community college," helped shape a new strategic plan for the University Hospital Foundation Board, and provided invaluable support to the philanthropic endeavours of the Sinneave Family Foundation.

---

*"Leadership is about a desire to do right by your people and not about being the person in charge."*







FELLOWS OF  
THE CHARTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
ACCOUNTANTS

## Raymond Crossley FCPA, FCA

Ray's professional journey with PwC spanned more than three decades and led him from Toronto to New York to London and, ultimately, to Calgary, where he served as a member of the seven-person Canadian Executive. As the audit partner of Suncor Energy, Ray oversaw the Suncor-Petro Canada merger—a historic transaction in Canadian history and one of Ray's most notable achievements.

Parallel to his remarkable career is his service on multiple boards and committees and impactful volunteer roles, including with the Patrons Council for UNICEF and numerous community organizations supported by PwC.

Ray played a crucial role in shaping the accounting profession nationally and in Alberta through his involvement with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Alberta Securities Commission.

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*"I have been very fortunate to have worked with some of Canada's most prominent business leaders. Watching these people and trying to emulate their most positive attributes enabled me to become much more successful in business and in life."*

## Laura Daniels FCPA, FCA

Laura has dedicated her career to impactful volunteerism and community contributions. Her involvement with the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation since 2008 showcases her commitment—notably, she played a significant role in the successful Build Them Up campaign, paving the way for Calgary's first centre dedicated to child and adolescent mental health.

Laura's contributions extend to the accounting profession where she has served on the Practice Review Committee of a legacy organization of CPA Alberta and supported the professional development of others through her involvement as an instructor for several courses for CPA Alberta.

Laura held leadership positions within PwC Calgary where she shaped the future of the firm and the services PwC provides to its clients and mentored staff and teams, empowering women through the Women in Leadership program. Her impact on the success and careers of CPAs in Alberta and across Canada is remarkable.

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*"Being a CPA has opened so many doors and provided me with a rich variety of experiences. Meeting people from all walks of life; working with different types of organizations, from not-for-profits to private companies to public entities...really has broadened my perspective."*







## Brian Koshman FCPA, FCA

Throughout his career, Brian has showcased strong leadership and an unwavering interest in social needs. He held senior leadership roles in Ernst & Young's tax practice, providing exceptional advice and counsel to clients and leading tax education initiatives for the firm's articling students.

Brian's significant involvement with the Edmonton Firefighters Burn Treatment Society helped establish the world-class Firefighters Burn Treatment Unit at the University of Alberta Hospital, supporting burn research, treatment, and recovery protocols. He has also played a vital role in raising funds for the Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Centre Society and in the transformation of the Art Gallery of Alberta into a world-class visual arts facility for the community.

Brian's career in public accounting/tax and as a business owner, combined with his dedication to philanthropic endeavors, exemplify his commitment to making a difference.

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*"I have been so fortunate; [as a result] I feel it is my responsibility to help others."*

## Stuart Lee FCPA, FCA

Stuart, the retired President and CEO of EPCOR, is widely respected for his integrity and ability to navigate increasingly complex challenges throughout his career.

Under Stuart's leadership, EPCOR experienced remarkable financial and operational growth while maintaining a strong focus on delivering exceptional service to customers and communities. His strategic leadership expanded EPCOR's presence in Edmonton, Ontario, and the U.S. Notably, Stuart spearheaded the acquisition of the City of Edmonton's Drainage operations, further strengthening EPCOR's role in managing the city's water utility cycle. He cultivated a culture of excellence and employee satisfaction, earning EPCOR recognition as a top employer in Alberta.

Stuart's involvement in volunteer work underscores his dedication and commitment to the industry, extending beyond his professional achievements. He applied his expertise and leadership to support the University of Alberta, STARS, and the Citadel Theatre.

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*"You are only as good as the people around you."*





## Lynda MacNeill FCPA, FCMA

Lynda, a highly accomplished leader and trailblazer in the Canadian energy industry, has made significant contributions to accounting and auditing procedures and commercial arrangements, particularly in joint ventures.

As the first female president of the Energy Accountants Society of Canada (EASC), she played a pivotal role in advancing the profession, chairing the committee that created the standard joint venture accounting procedure still in use today. Her influence extends internationally through her involvement in various industry task forces and committees, including as the council representative for EASC on the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies (COPAS) where she aided the professional development of U.S. counterparts and expanded the CPA brand internationally.

Beyond her professional achievements, Lynda's dedication to community organizations showcases her passion for making a positive impact.

---

*"Being a CPA has enriched my career in immeasurable ways. I've enjoyed the close-knit affiliation of fellow CPAs as we work together collaborating on issues. It also serves as a continual reminder of our responsibility to the values and principles of the CPA profession in all that we do."*



FELLOWS OF  
THE CHARTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
ACCOUNTANTS



## Dwayne Pohranychny FCPA, FCA

Dwayne, a partner and co-founder of APP & Associates LLP, demonstrates a strong commitment to community service through his leadership roles in not-for-profit and charitable organizations. His professional expertise has greatly contributed to advancing their missions and making significant impacts.

Dwayne's notable involvement with the Entrepreneurs' Organization's Edmonton Chapter and Canadian Region spans over two decades, where he has held various leadership positions on both local and regional boards.

Dwayne played a pivotal role as one of the original members of Little Warriors, a national organization focused on addressing child sexual abuse. His impactful support has greatly contributed to Little Warriors' success. Dwayne has also served other organizations, such as the Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta, the MacEwan University Accounting and Strategic Measurement Program, and the Edmonton Mental Health Foundation.

---

*"Trust and respect are two core values I live my life by. The CPA designation gives you the credibility to enhance those two core values and share them with others."*



## Colleen Purdy FCPA, FCMA

Colleen has a distinguished career supporting health care and serving Albertans. With senior roles in both the health care and financial sectors, including her current position as Vice President and CFO at Alberta Health Services (AHS), she helped steer the organization during one of the most difficult and challenging times in the history of healthcare: the COVID-19 pandemic. Colleen has also been involved in many transformative initiatives, including sponsoring AHS's automation program, supporting the Alberta Surgical Initiative, creating a business development office, sponsoring AHS's sustainability program office, and overseeing many large contracting and outsourcing initiatives.

Colleen's commitment extends to her volunteer work, serving on multiple boards and foundations dedicated to supporting vulnerable individuals in the community.

---

*"Tackle every problem one step at a time. A saying that I have heard and love is 'Think big, start small, act now.'"*



## Hilary Rose FCPA, FCA

Hilary is an accomplished governance leader whose professional experience has had a significant impact on many organizations throughout her career as a CPA.

As chief audit executive reporting directly to the audit committee and board, Hilary served Peace Hills Trust Company well beyond her job description, providing it with a consultant while acting as a mentor and trusted advisor.

Hilary's leadership success extends to her extensive involvement in non-profit boards and advisory committees, including Legal Aid Alberta and the College of Patent and Trademark Agents. She has also contributed her expertise to the Provincial Audit Committee and held board leadership positions in organizations such as the National Film Board of Canada and Genome Alberta.

---

*"Persevere! Worthwhile achievements don't come easy and don't come quickly. Keep trying and success will follow."*

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Through their exceptional commitment, visionary leadership, and unwavering passion, they have made a lasting impact and set a high standard for others to follow. The Distinguished Service Award spotlights CPAs or supporters of the profession who have demonstrated a significant accomplishment or contribution within the last five years.

### Toks Bakinson CPA, CMA

Toks is a community service leader who sets a remarkable example for the CPA profession. She excels in community sports as a soccer coach, mentor, referee, and speaker and contributes her volunteer coordination skills to major athletic events. Toks actively supports crucial organizations like the Calgary Food Bank, Women's Emergency Shelter, and Muslim Families Network Society. She is dedicated to empowering Black employees at Imperial Oil and serves the profession diligently through various volunteer roles.

*"I love giving and sharing. I love to volunteer because I find satisfaction in being able to say I helped someone or I made a difference."*



### Joseph Devaney CPA, CA

Joe is a highly respected tax expert and tax innovation champion dedicated to advancing tax resources for Alberta CPAs and the greater community. He leads tax education within the profession as Director of Tax Education and Development at Video Tax News and through his contributions to the professional bodies he serves. During the pandemic, Joe played a vital role in guiding tax professionals through the challenges of government programs and unprecedented circumstances.

*"What about volunteering is rewarding to me? Seeing people I work with get the little, but important, emotional wins that I know will be permanently etched in their minds, providing positive future ripples in their spheres and memories to use in the tough days."*

### Priti Laderoute CPA, CMA

Priti is a dedicated leader who is respected in her profession and community. A passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion, she actively supports and mentors women leaders, having co-chaired the YEG Business Women Roundtable and co-founded Herstory—Advancing Women as Leaders within EPCOR. In addition, Priti volunteers her time on the NAIT Board of Governors, GO Productivity, and the Community Services Advisory Board in Edmonton. As an active committee member of the CPA Assist program, she ensures the health and wellness resources meet the needs of CPAs and their families.

*"Volunteering...offers the opportunity to learn new skills and gain experience in different areas of interest that you might not get in one position. In addition, working with others and meeting new people builds a strong sense of community as you work towards common goals."*







### Jason Lukman CPA, CMA

Jason is a firm believer in lifelong community service and continuous learning. He mentors undergraduate and MBA students, supports aspiring CPA candidates, and has been recognized for his exceptional contributions to the Energy Accounting Society of Canada. He lives out his passion for making a positive impact in his role as Director of Finance at Carya, an organization that empowers individuals, families, and communities.

*"Being a CPA developed my ability to ascertain boundless perspective. The designation enhanced my critical thinking abilities in solving problems, allowing me to observe multiple viewpoints, consider stakeholder impact, as well as look for new/innovative ways of approaching things. It also activated my skills to think, act, react, and adjust to organizational problems across the spectrum, from strategic all the way down to operational issues."*

### Betty Mah CPA, CMA

Betty is a dynamic change agent who has made significant contributions to the profession and community through her extensive volunteer involvement. She is a dedicated supporter of CPAs, and actively advances women's careers through mentorship, career development, and networking. In executive roles with the CPA Alberta Edmonton Chapter and as a former chair of the CMA Edmonton Chapter, Betty played a pivotal role in unifying the accounting profession and shaping the Chapter.



*"The designation has opened up diverse career opportunities and volunteer experiences for me."*

### Kolawole Oladimeji CPA, CGA

Kola exhibits a passion for excellence and the highest standards in achieving results. He is a well-respected leader in municipal finance and is a community leader to newcomers and internationally trained professionals, an esteemed ambassador of the accounting profession, and an exceptional mentor to young professionals.



*"[Being a] CPA has impacted me significantly in the areas of excellence, [making me a] valuable and respectable member of my community and an accomplished professional."*

### Gerald Whitford

Gerald has displayed a lifelong commitment to uplifting his community and transforming the accounting profession as a non-CPA. A long-standing member of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA Canada), he played a pivotal role in establishing and advancing AFOA Alberta into a leading provider of value-added training and capacity development for Indigenous management and governance professionals. Gerald's partnerships with post-secondary institutions and the CPA Education Foundation have increased Indigenous participation in accounting and finance, while his visionary approach has empowered countless Indigenous Canadians and driven innovation in the profession.

*"[I live by] the seven grandfather teachings [Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility, and Wisdom.]"*



## EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Despite their short time in the profession, they have already achieved remarkable milestones, setting themselves apart as exceptional professionals. The Early Achievement Award recognizes CPAs who have made noteworthy accomplishments within their first ten years as a CPA.

### Michelle D. Coleman CPA, CA

Michelle is a respected leader and expert in trust and estate matters whose commitment extends to the operation of professional associations and the development of future CPAs. Volunteering brings immense rewards to Michelle. It allows her to give back to her community, make meaningful connections, grow personally, and support organizations that enhance society.

*"I have been lucky to be able to take advantage of opportunities to grow and learn; it is my responsibility to give back, so others have those opportunities as well. It creates a stronger community for all. I choose organizations where I can learn and expand my skill set so I can be a more effective volunteer in the future."*



### Leonard D'Silva CPA, CMA

Leonard's impact on nurturing the next generation of CPAs is profound, evident through his volunteer and professional activities. From his student years to the present, Leonard's volunteer efforts have influenced countless future CPAs, earning

him commendation as a role model and mentor for aspiring professionals.

*"The CPA designation has opened doors in my career which likely would [otherwise] have remained closed. The designation is highly respected and provides the credibility that I needed to pursue higher-level roles in my career. I found success at a young age in my career and was often working with higher-level executives, so by having the CPA designation they were able to feel confident that I had the knowledge, skills, and experience to advise them."*

### Jeffrey Herzog CPA

Jeff is a remarkable ambassador for the profession, community activist, and innovative accounting educator. As a member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, he actively promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. He mentors aspiring 2SLGBTQIA+ leaders, supports 2SLGBTQIA+-owned businesses, and has established scholarships and awards in accounting.

*"When you believe in yourself, you can unlock your full potential and achieve your goals with greater confidence and determination. Overall, confidence in my designation and the skills it's helped me develop have positively impacted my career, from pursuing new opportunities to building strong relationships to navigating setbacks with resilience."*



The 2023 CPA Alberta Achievement Award recipients were honoured at the Elevate Awards Gala in May 2023. CPA Alberta gratefully acknowledges the support of the sponsors of the 2023 Elevate Awards Gala.



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### Mark Mowbrey CPA

Mark's volunteer work in Edmonton has had a significant impact. Most notably, through his involvement with the Edmonton Youth Justice Committee Society,

Mark has provided underprivileged youth with an alternative to the traditional justice system, increasing their chances of becoming productive citizens.

*"Helping youth is extremely important to me to ensure that everyone is given a fair chance in life from the start. This hits home even more now with the birth of my son last year."*

### Kristen Schafer CPA, CA

Kristen's accounting expertise and financial acumen have made a remarkable impact in the Lethbridge community, enhancing the reputation of CPAs and highlighting the valuable contributions they make. As a dedicated volunteer for the Lethbridge Steel football team, Kristen's leadership elevated the organization to newfound professionalism and financial stability. Additionally, Kristen's invaluable contributions to New West Theatre helped ensure financial transparency and a well-informed board.



*"[I chose the CPA designation because] I had a teacher in college that really inspired me to pursue my designation. His passion for the profession highlighted how a CPA designation will open doors and help unleash as many opportunities as possible."*



### Amy Richards CPA, CA

Amy is a stellar example of the modern CPA partner who has a vision of what the profession can be for students and future CPAs. At Fletcher Mudryk, her role as the human resource partner has resulted in a more engaged and satisfied workforce through initiatives promoting mental

health and team building. Furthermore, Amy is an active community volunteer, playing a vital role in the success of the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta.

*"I have been privileged with an extensive support network throughout my life. While I leverage this support to seize opportunities and achieve my goals, I recognize that many others do not have the same possibilities. I give back because I am in a position to do so."*

### Janice Tran CPA, CMA

Janice, a leader and advocate for the clean energy industry, has achieved remarkable success in her career. She was pivotal in establishing the renewable microgrids business line at NRG and built a substantial portfolio of organic waste-to-energy investments at Generate Capital. In 2020 she founded Kanin Energy which has swiftly gained traction with upcoming commercial projects set to launch in 2025. Beyond her business accomplishments, Janice actively contributes to various trade association groups and remains dedicated to Student Energy, a global youth-led organization she co-founded in 2009 focused on accelerating the sustainable energy transition.



*"My goal in life has always been about maximizing my impact on mitigating climate change. Giving back is a part of the mission."*



**Congratulations to all of this year's deserving recipients.**  
For detailed biographies and more thoughts from each recipient,  
visit [cpaalberta.ca/Awards](https://cpaalberta.ca/Awards).



# CPA EDUCATION FOUNDATION IMPACT AWARD

*A*n absolute commitment to the value of education. Dedication to fostering the next generation of accounting and business professionals. Integral to the success of the Foundation.

Presented by the CPA Education Foundation, the Impact Award honours an individual for their contributions to the work and goals of the Foundation.



## Claire Dallaire CPA, CGA

Claire is a shining example of the fact that it's never too late to pursue one's passions. At the age of 50, she received her designation—a milestone she considers her proudest accomplishment.

Early in her professional journey, Claire was fortunate to have supportive mentors who recognized her talents and encouraged her to chase her dreams. This instilled the confidence she needed to persist and thrive, a valuable lesson she now imparts to the next generation of aspiring accountants.

Today, Claire leverages her own success to make a difference in the lives of others. Through her dedicated award at the CPA Education Foundation, she offers vital support and encouragement to candidates who may require support to overcome obstacles. Named the Claire Dallaire CPA, CGA, CPA PEP Encouragement Award,

her scholarship aims to empower students returning to education, enabling them to thrive in the face of adversity.

For Claire, education extends far beyond mere academic credentials—it is an opportunity. Through her scholarship, she opens doors for students, providing them with a pathway to their own credentials. Since first being granted in 2018, Claire has continually increased the value of her scholarship, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to supporting older students.

Above all, Claire hopes that her award will provide accounting students a path to their destinations, especially those who may be facing challenges to achieving their goals. With her generous support, she hopes to inspire and empower individuals to stay determined and forge ahead on their journey to professional success. ▢

“

*During my years as a student, I had family, friends, and colleagues who were always there to support me. Some of them were mentors and very good role models. I am grateful to each one of them who contributed to my success.*

”



BUSINESS LEADER  
INNOVATOR  
COMMUNITY  
CHAMPION  
THOUGHT LEADER  
VISIONARY  
CHANGE AGENT  
ROLE MODEL



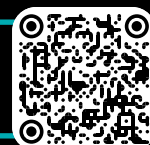
CPA ALBERTA  
**ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS**

ARE YOU **IN AWE** OF AN INDIVIDUAL  
WHO IS **EXPANDING HORIZONS**  
AND **SURPASSING EXPECTATIONS?**

Many CPAs are extraordinary individuals who inspire awe, propelling individuals, organizations, communities, and the entire profession to unprecedented heights. These leaders, mentors, and volunteers raise the bar and remind us of our own potential.

The CPA Alberta Achievement Awards celebrate and honour those outstanding individuals who have brought immense prestige to the CPA profession in Alberta.

Nominate an awe-inspiring individual today  
at [cpaalberta.ca/Awards](https://cpaalberta.ca/Awards)



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CPA ALBERTA

# Achievement Awards

The inaugural CPA Alberta Achievement Awards took place in **2016** as part of the **FIRST ELEVATE WEEK**.

In this first year, **23 EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUALS** were recognized for their remarkable accomplishments.

Since the profession's unification, a total of

283

individuals have been recognized with CPA Alberta Achievement Awards.

BETWEEN 2016 AND 2023

16

individuals have received the esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award.

74

individuals have been honored with the Distinguished Service Award.

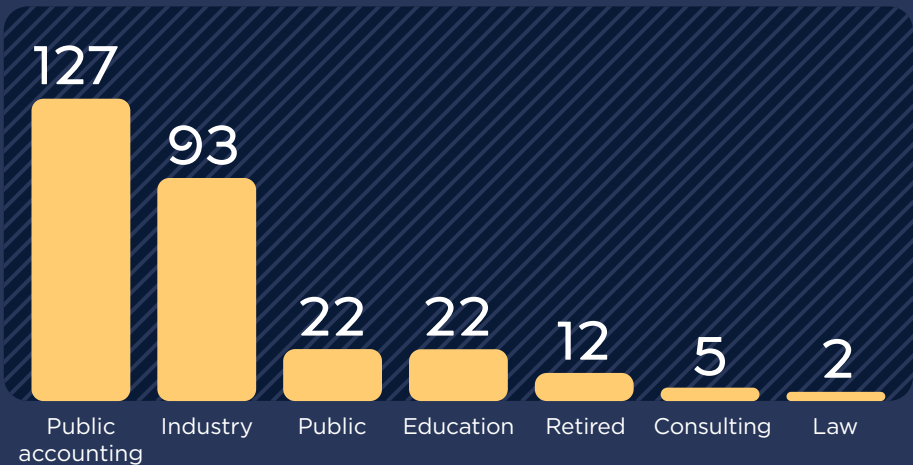
96

individuals have been recognized with an Early Achievement Award.

97

recipients have been awarded Fellowship.

Achievement Award recipients represent diverse sectors of the Alberta economy, showcasing the breadth of their impact.







THE PROFESSION IN ALBERTA HAS RECOGNIZED  
**537 INDIVIDUALS** AS **FELLOWS.**



Achievement Award  
recipients hail from  
various regions across  
the province:

GRANDE  
PRAIRIE



ST.  
ALBERT



SHERWOOD  
PARK



EDMONTON

VEGREVILLE

RED  
DEER



CALGARY



CANMORE



OKOTOKS



LETHBRIDGE



REST OF  
ALBERTA



OUT OF  
PROVINCE



OUT OF  
COUNTRY

**21**

CPAs who received their  
designation under the new  
certification program post-unification  
have received a CPA Alberta  
Achievement Award.

**2**

non-CPAs

have been awarded the Distinguished  
Service Award for their invaluable  
contributions to the profession.

A TOTAL OF **340 NOMINATIONS** HAVE BEEN  
RECEIVED SINCE 2016, WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE  
SUBMITTING MULTIPLE NOMINATIONS.

# THE NEW WORLD OF ... INTERNAL CONTROLS *(really!)*

BY JEFFREY D. SHERMAN FCPA, FCA

**One of the major compliance responsibilities** of finance managers is to help ensure that their organizations have satisfactory internal controls in place. In the past, this has been seen as a routine and somewhat passive requirement: after all, controls can be seen as just an added cost—until something goes wrong. However, given the rapid changes currently happening in our business environments, improving internal controls can now be regarded as an asset—a source of added value—rather than solely a cost.

Internal controls have a broad definition as they are designed to help an organization achieve its objectives. We normally think of reporting or compliance objectives; in reality, the objectives may also be operational, which includes almost everything else within an organization.

**Here are a few ways that improving internal control can be a source of added value, rather than just a cost:**





## #1 SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

In the early days of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) development, there was extensive debate regarding the potential conflict between being a responsible corporate citizen and optimizing profits and returns for shareholders and owners. However, in today's landscape, the focus on sustainability has merged with a realization that businesses are accountable to stakeholders beyond their shareholders alone. (In fact, this has always been true in Canada, although the Canadian business community has been influenced by American business culture and Milton Friedman's famous, *"The social responsibility of business is to increase its profits."*)

A good summary of the Canadian position can be found in the 2022 report by Peter Dey and Sarah Kaplan, *360° Governance: Where are the Directors in a World in Crisis?*

"It is increasingly clear that corporations depend on a wide variety of stakeholders to function effectively. Customers, the planet, workers, communities, and others offer the resources and markets required to grow businesses. And, while corporations contribute jobs, innovation, and economic growth to our country, corporate operations have also contributed to creating or exacerbating social problems: climate change, income inequality, gender inequality, the opioid crisis, etc.

Too often, these social costs have been treated as 'externalities' outside the scope of action for companies. At a time when a company's primary responsibility has been to produce short-term returns to its shareholders, they have been dismissed as simply the cost of doing business. Yet, for an accumulating set of reasons, stakeholder concerns are now corporate concerns."

To the extent that improved controls enhance broader objectives, such as improving the community, the environment, or even customer service, it may be wrong to merely focus on the "cost" of such enhancements. Engaging with the community through local sourcing of supplies, supporting local events, and in general being a "good corporate citizen" are all examples of building resilience and goodwill. Such efforts contribute to improved internal control since they aid the organization in achieving its objectives.



## #2 DATA IS VALUABLE

We understand that accounting data is valuable and financial managers safeguard it. Accounting records are reconciled, audited, balanced, and analyzed to maintain accuracy and reliability. However, a crucial lesson in the modern world is the importance and value of all data, not only accounting records. The finance area may play a pivotal role in enhancing internal control by improving the accuracy and usefulness of non-accounting information sloshing around in all areas. Website hits, customer queries, marketing campaign statistics, and quality measurements are all examples of data that can be vital to the organization. Finance has a significant role to play in ensuring the high quality of this data.

Similar to the protection of accounting data due to its value, all data within the organization requires a "security mindset" to ensure that it cannot be exploited by outsiders. For example, third-party cookies may reveal patterns of browsing and internet searches by employees that may be valuable data to a competitor. This data could potentially be valuable to a competitor or other actor outside the organization. An internal control focus will not only ensure that non-accounting data is accurate and useful but help maintain security and privacy. >

## #3 ANALOG TO DIGITAL

In many organizations, particularly smaller ones, there remains a surprising amount of manual reconciliation and checking processes. Automating manual processes will certainly improve efficiency and reduce the potential for human error, but there are two additional benefits:

- Automating processes forces examination of the processes themselves. While automating, redundant controls, missing controls, and vague requirements must all be addressed. In some cases, manual processes have not been re-examined for decades, so installing new processes provides a wonderful opportunity to re-evaluate the process itself. Merely the processes of defining the procedures, in writing, can be valuable.
- To effectively use the data within an organization (see “#2 Data is valuable” on previous page), it is crucial for it to be digital. In this format, it can be sorted, analyzed, and converted into an asset.

## #4 CONSUMERS AS STAKEHOLDERS

Nowadays, any accepted definition of stakeholders clearly includes customers and consumers. Internal controls may help ensure customer requirements are met by ensuring feedback is monitored and there is transparency in pricing and billing. Similarly, recognizing customers and consumers as stakeholders means a focus on ethical behaviour and having processes in place to prevent unethical actions. These processes include training staff and offering ombudsperson or helplines to deal with customer concerns and then taking the required actions to address the concerns.

**Jeffrey Sherman FCPA, FCA, MBA** designs and presents several seminars and programs for CPA Alberta, often on the subject of controls. Some of his recent courses include: “Disruption and Risk, the New World for Financial Managers” and “Internal Control Refresher for Financial Managers.” He is also presenting at CPA Alberta’s four-day executive development program, “The CFO’s Operational Skills Program,” virtually in December, and in-person in Banff in March 2024.

## #5 STRENGTHENING CULTURE

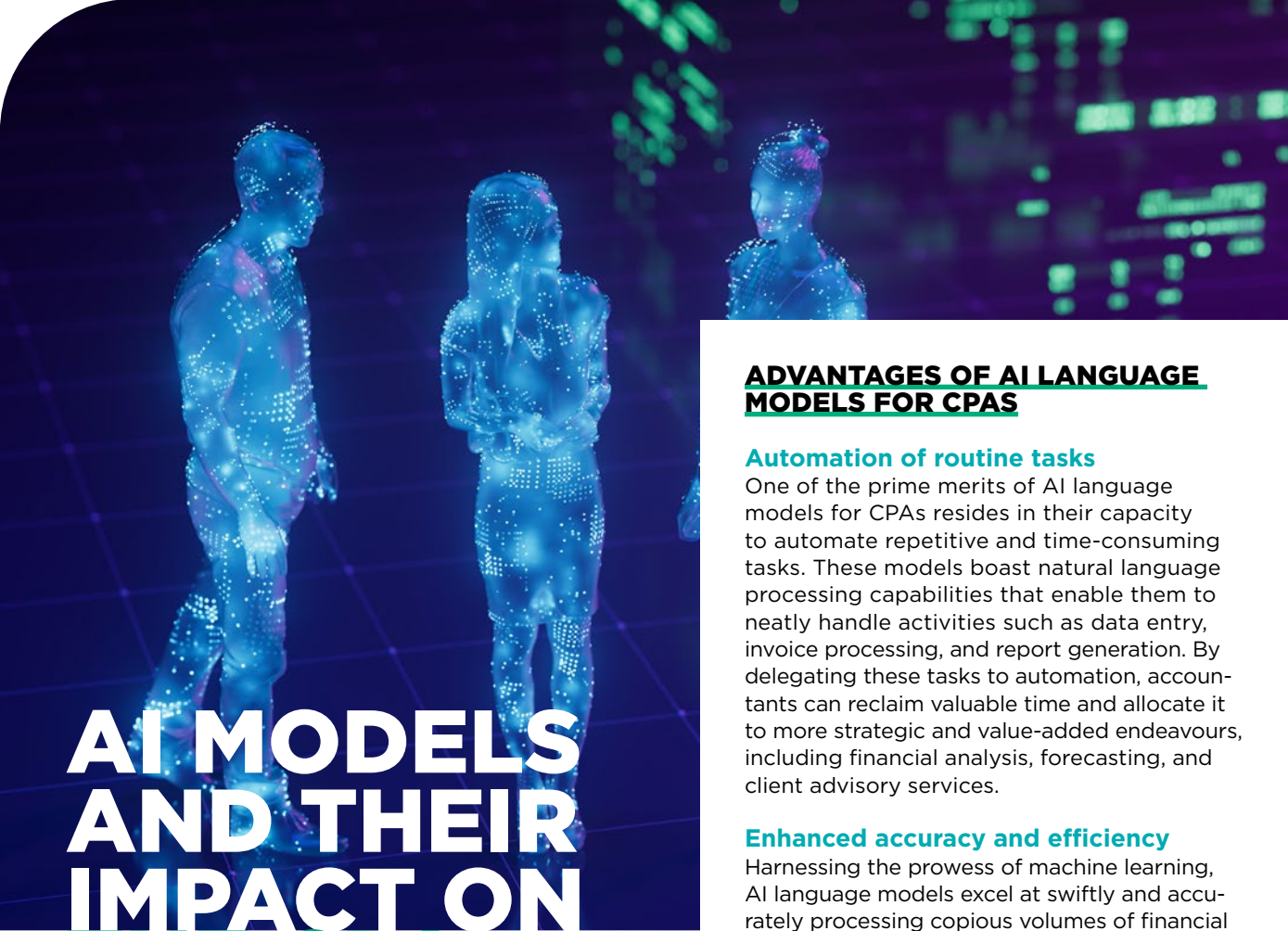
There is renewed recognition of the importance of culture in any organization. Many recent frauds and corporate collapses resulted from serious flaws in the internal culture, ranging from a lack of integrity and ethics to outright fraud. Internal control can play a significant role in strengthening culture by:

- Encouraging transparency—for example, fostering a culture that encourages communication among different groups and well as within teams diminishes siloes and increases transparency.
- Fostering continuous improvement—for example, feedback loops and similar controls can foster learning and growth by employees.
- Promoting accountability—for example, clear job expectations and reporting relationships promote accountability.
- Explicitly requiring ethical behaviour—for example, written guidelines, codes of conduct, and even ethical discussion in values statements all strengthen culture while consequently enhancing internal control.

These are five areas—there are many more—in which changes to the business environment have created a renewed focus on innovative and value-added sources of improved control. □







# AI MODELS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE CPA PROFESSION

BY SYED SHAN TARIQ CPA

**Artificial intelligence (AI)** has made remarkable strides in recent years, heralding significant transformations across diverse industries. Among these advancements lies the emergence of powerful AI language models such as ChatGPT, which possess the potential to exert a profound influence on the CPA profession in Canada. As these AI models continue to evolve, pertinent questions arise regarding their role within the profession and the potential metamorphosis they might instigate in accounting services. This article delves into the potential ramifications of AI language models on the CPA profession in Canada, scrutinizing their advantages, challenges, and implications.

## **ADVANTAGES OF AI LANGUAGE MODELS FOR CPAS**

### **Automation of routine tasks**

One of the prime merits of AI language models for CPAs resides in their capacity to automate repetitive and time-consuming tasks. These models boast natural language processing capabilities that enable them to neatly handle activities such as data entry, invoice processing, and report generation. By delegating these tasks to automation, accountants can reclaim valuable time and allocate it to more strategic and value-added endeavours, including financial analysis, forecasting, and client advisory services.

### **Enhanced accuracy and efficiency**

Harnessing the prowess of machine learning, AI language models excel at swiftly and accurately processing copious volumes of financial data. They proficiently analyze intricate financial statements, identify patterns, and promptly detect anomalies with remarkable precision. This acumen significantly mitigates the risk of errors, bolstering data accuracy and empowering enhanced financial reporting and more informed decision-making processes.

### **Client engagement and support**

AI language models serve as invaluable assets for fostering client engagement and delivering comprehensive support in the accounting profession. Capable of providing real-time responses to client queries, these models offer prompt assistance and guidance on routine accounting matters. Moreover, their aptitude for understanding and interpreting financial data enables them to furnish personalized insights and recommendations tailored to individual client needs. This personalized approach enhances client satisfaction and fortifies the symbiotic bond between accountants and their clientele. ›

## CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

### Ethical and privacy concerns

Adopting AI language models within the CPA profession necessitates addressing ethical and privacy concerns. Accountants must ensure the utmost security and confidentiality of client data during interactions with AI-powered systems. Additionally, ethical implications inherent in relying on AI for decision-making must be meticulously pondered, as the algorithms underpinning these models may harbour biases and limitations that can influence outcomes. Regulatory bodies governing the CPA profession in Canada ought to establish robust guidelines and standards to address these concerns and foster responsible AI adoption.

### Impact on job roles

While AI language models yield numerous benefits, apprehensions arise regarding their potential impact on job roles within the CPA profession. Automating routine tasks may engender already diminished demand for certain entry-level accounting positions. Nonetheless, the augmented efficiency facilitated by AI models also engenders opportunities for accountants to undertake more strategic and value-added roles, such as financial analysis, risk management, and advisory services. To adapt to this evolving landscape, accountants should strive to cultivate skills that complement and leverage the capabilities of AI.

### Continuous learning and training

Integrating AI language models into the CPA profession necessitates an ongoing commitment to learning and training. Accountants must remain abreast of the latest developments in AI, acquiring the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively collaborate with these models. This may entail additional training encompassing domains like machine learning, data analytics, and AI ethics. CPA bodies and educational institutions play a pivotal role in providing resources and support to accountants, facilitating their upskilling endeavours, and facilitating adeptness in navigating the shifting technological terrain. CPAs should leverage these resources to stay relevant in the future job market.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PROFESSION

### Transformation of roles

The advent of AI language models harbours the potential to catalyze transformative shifts in roles within the profession. While routine tasks may be automated, demand for accountants equipped with analytical, interpretive, and advisory skills is likely to grow. CPAs can seamlessly transition into roles necessitating strategic acumen, critical analysis, and the ability to effectively interpret AI-generated insights to inform decision-making. This paradigm shift elevates the overall value proposition of the profession.

### Improved service quality

By harnessing the potential of AI language models, CPAs can amplify the quality of their services. The automation of routine tasks empowers accountants to redirect their efforts toward delivering higher-value services such as financial analysis, forecasting, and advisory services. The symbiotic fusion of human expertise and AI capabilities fosters more precise and insightful financial reporting, enabling clients to make more judicious and well-informed decisions.

## CONCLUSION

AI language models possess the capacity to exert a profound impact on the profession in Canada. While automating routine tasks and enhancing efficiency constitute evident advantages, it is crucial to conscientiously address ethical and privacy concerns. The evolving role of CPAs necessitates an unwavering commitment to continuous learning and upskilling, ensuring adeptness in navigating the ever-evolving technological landscape. By embracing AI language models as instrumental tools, CPAs can augment their services, deliver heightened value to clients, and forge stronger bonds with their clientele. Collaborative efforts among CPA regulatory bodies, educational institutions, and professionals play a pivotal role in navigating this transformative era for the accounting profession. ▣

**Syed Shan Tariq MACC, CPA** will be presenting at CPA Alberta's Peer-to-Peer Forum on AI and Energy in September 2023.

#### Sources:

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## SUSTAINABILITY

### IFRS S1 and S2—first two sustainability standards released

On June 26, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) released “IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information” which sets out the overall requirements for an entity to disclose sustainability-related financial information, including information about its governance, strategy, and risk management, and related metrics and targets. IFRS S1 is effective for periods beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

IFRS S1 requires an entity to disclose material information about all significant sustainability-related risks and opportunities to which it is exposed.

It includes requirements and guidance supporting the disclosure of material information about significant sustainability-related risks and opportunities not specifically addressed by an IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standard.

To identify sustainability-related risks and opportunities and to disclose information about them, entities are directed to consider sources, including:

- the disclosure topics in the industry-based Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) standards;
- the ISSB’s non-mandatory guidance (e.g., the Climate Disclosure Standards Board’s framework application guidance for water- and biodiversity-related disclosures);
- the most recent pronouncements of other standard-setting bodies whose requirements meet the needs of users of general-purpose financial reporting; and
- the sustainability-related risks and opportunities identified by entities operating in the same industries or geographies.

Coincident to S1, on June 26 the ISSB released “IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures” which incorporated the

recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures and industry-based disclosure requirements derived from SASB standards.

IFRS S2 sets out requirements to identify, measure, and disclose climate-related risks and opportunities. This information, and the information from an entity’s general-purpose financial reporting, will support the assessment of future cash flows, including their amounts, timing, and certainty over the short, medium, and long terms. This assessment will, in turn, inform the analysis of an entity’s enterprise value.

IFRS S2 requires an entity to provide information that enables users of general-purpose financial reporting to understand the following:

- **Governance:** The governance processes, controls, and procedures an entity uses to monitor and manage climate-related risks and opportunities.
- **Strategy:** The climate-related risks and opportunities that could enhance, threaten, or change an entity’s business model and strategy over the short, medium, and long terms.
- **Risk management:** How an entity identifies, assesses, manages, and mitigates climate-related risks and opportunities.
- **Metrics and targets:** The metrics and targets used to manage and monitor an entity’s performance in relation to climate-related risks and opportunities.

Such information would be presented in a way that helps users of general-purpose financial reporting understand the interrelationships between the disclosures.

### Greenhouse gases (GHG)—Scope 3 reporting

Increasingly, organizations must measure, monitor, manage, and report on their Scope 3 GHG emissions, which are the GHG emissions from their upstream and downstream value chain activities. In October 2022, the ISSB announced its landmark decision to make Scope 3 reporting mandatory. North American regulators, including the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) and the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) have also tabled proposed mandatory climate-related disclosure rules that consider Scope 3 emissions reporting. ›

Increased attention on companies' Scope 3 GHG emissions by global capital markets (e.g., investors, insurers, lenders, ratings agencies, and regulators) and broader company stakeholders (e.g., employees, customers, and communities), will require organizations to measure, monitor, manage, and report on their Scope 3 GHG emissions to investors and other stakeholders. Organizations can no longer commit to net zero targets that only include Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions. Increasingly, an organization's ability to reduce its Scope 3 GHG emissions is an essential component of a credible climate change strategy, particularly if an organization has set a target of net zero by 2050.

Organizations need to develop baseline inventories and accounting systems to measure and monitor their Scope 3 GHG emissions. Once a baseline is established, organizations can evaluate actions to reduce their Scope 3 GHG emissions, such as engaging with suppliers to reduce their carbon emissions or supporting customers' end use of products to reduce their downstream emissions. Organizations must be prepared to transparently report on their progress toward reducing Scope 3 GHG emissions in support of net zero ambitions. This is a journey of progress, not perfection, as methodologies for accounting for Scope 3 GHG emissions are still under development globally.

CPA Canada has issued a guideline (*"Climate Impacts of Value Chains: Tackling Scope 3 GHG Emissions"*) that is intended for CPAs working in industry (e.g., operational, management accounting, and reporting roles), CPAs and business professionals in leadership roles, and boards of directors. The guideline provides practical industry guidance for CPAs to establish measurement systems for Scope 3 GHG emissions and a framework to develop an implementation plan to achieve reductions across their value chain activities. CPAs will learn how to utilize their skills and competencies to identify, plan, implement, assess performance, and respond to stakeholder expectations on Scope 3.

Carbon emissions reporting is new for corporate issuers, and disclosures have mostly focused on Scope 1 and 2 emissions, with limited consideration for Scope 3. In comparison to Scope 1 and 2, Scope 3 emissions can be the most difficult to understand, measure, and control, as they represent the indirect emissions in a company's value chain. Despite this challenge, Scope 3 emissions (all 15 categories) must be properly assessed and included in the overall GHG emission assessment and reduction strategy, given they represent a significant proportion of an organization's overall emissions (in most cases) and provide an organization with a full

view of its climate-related risks and opportunities. For investors to have this holistic view, companies must consider Scope 1, 2, and 3 in their reporting. Moreover, the push to set science-based net zero targets, as well as proposed regulations in Canada, is a significant driver for increased pressure for Scope 3 disclosures. Reporting GHG emissions—inclusive of a proper Scope 3 assessment—is the only way that a company can responsibly assess and mitigate its full climate impact.

When it comes to carbon reporting, organizations that maintain the status quo by failing to appropriately assess Scope 3 emissions, will face long-term implications as the global economy transitions to net zero by 2050. This could include, but is not limited to, loss of access to capital, increasing costs of capital and insurance, and inability to attract and retain strong talent (particularly younger generations who seek to work with organizations aligning with their values). Conversely, organizations that proactively begin to tackle measuring and reducing Scope 3 GHG emissions will be well positioned to thrive as the policy and legal, market, technology, and reputational risk landscape evolves over time in response to climate change. Businesses undergoing an assessment of Scope 3 emissions can help identify new market opportunities and ways to engage and improve relationships with key suppliers and customers.

## PUBLIC SECTOR

### Measurement-related pronouncements

The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board® (IPSASB®), developer of International Public Sector Accounting Standard® (IPSAS®), international accrual-based accounting standards for use by governments and other public sector entities around the world, has issued an integrated package of measurement-related pronouncements comprising:

- Updated Conceptual Framework: Chapter 7, *Measurement of Assets and Liabilities in Financial Statements*;
- IPSAS 45, *Property, Plant, and Equipment*; and
- IPSAS 46, *Measurement*.

The three pronouncements provide simplified, more consistent guidance addressing key conceptual challenges and practical implementation issues identified by the public sector community by introducing:

- straight-forward principles for initial and subsequent measurement that apply throughout IPSAS and align with the Conceptual Framework; and
- enhanced property, plant, and equipment guidance that also clarifies the recognition and measurement of infrastructure and heritage assets.



“These important pronouncements provide clear and consistent foundational principles for the measurement of public sector assets,” said IPSASB Chair, Ian Carruthers. “In addition, IPSAS 45 includes guidance on the recognition and measurement of heritage and infrastructure assets, which addresses their unique characteristics.”

The updates to Chapter 7 of the Conceptual Framework streamline the measurement principles by eliminating unused measurement bases and enhancing focus on those that are commonly used. The new subsequent measurement

framework will help constituents apply the principles in practice and align measurement concepts with the guidance provided in IPSAS.

IPSAS 45 replaces IPSAS 17, *Property, Plant, and Equipment* by adding current operational value as a measurement basis in the updated current value model for assets within its scope, identifying the characteristics of heritage and infrastructure assets, and adding new guidance on how these important types of public sector assets should be recognized and measured.

IPSAS 46 provides new guidance in a single standard, addressing how

commonly used measurement bases should be applied in practice. It brings in generic guidance on fair value for the first time and introduces current operational value, a public sector-specific current value measurement basis addressing constituents’ views that an alternative current value measurement basis to fair value is needed for certain public sector assets.

The effective date for both IPSAS 45 and IPSAS 46 is January 1, 2025, with earlier application permitted. Updates to the Conceptual Framework are effective when published.

## ASSURANCE AND RELATED SERVICES

The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) issued proposed revisions to its current standard on going concern, *International Standard on Auditing 570 (Revised), Going Concern*. The proposed changes aim to:

- promote consistent practice and behaviour and facilitate effective responses to identified risks of material misstatement related to going concern;
- strengthen the auditor’s evaluation of management’s assessment of going concern, including reinforcing the importance, throughout the audit, of the appropriate exercise of professional skepticism; and
- enhance transparency with respect to the auditor’s responsibilities and work related to going concern where appropriate, including strengthening communications and reporting requirements.

High-quality audits support the smooth functioning of capital markets, overall economic performance, and financial stability.



The ongoing uncertainties in the broader economic environment, corporate failures across the globe in recent years, and the more recent turmoil in the financial services sector have put a spotlight on the topic of going concern. In addition, conditions, such as war and the global pandemic, have also heightened risks and focused attention on the challenges and issues related to auditors’ responsibilities and work related to management’s assessment of an entity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

“Investors, regulators, and other stakeholders have repeatedly called for more robust audit procedures related to going concern and for increased transparency regarding that work in the auditor’s report,” noted IAASB Chair, Tom Seidenstein. “The revisions proposed today are a step in that direction. The proposals seek to strengthen going concern requirements by substantially enhancing the auditor’s work effort in relation to going concern and providing enhanced, entity-specific information in the auditor’s report.”

**The IAASB invites all stakeholders to comment on the proposed revisions via the IAASB website ([iaasb.org](https://iaasb.org)). Comments are requested by August 24, 2023.** 📌

# SPARKING GREAT CAREERS ONE INTERN AT A TIME

**CPA Education Foundation initiative funds summer internship opportunities for high school and post-secondary students**

**Last fall, the CPA Education Foundation launched the Sparking Great Careers fundraising project. The idea behind this initiative is to help remove barriers for disadvantaged youth and create opportunities for students to learn about the CPA profession—especially those who may not have any connections to a CPA.**

In its first year, Sparking Great Careers has funded six new scholarships—four for high school students and two for post-secondary students—and several summer internship positions.

While scholarships are well within the Foundation's familiar territory, internships spark new territory for the board and management team. For Joe Gagliardi FCPA, FCMA, Sparking Great Careers is an exciting initiative on multiple fronts—both from a Foundation/non-profit mandate perspective and as a business owner who could potentially benefit from the internship program.

When the concept for Sparking Great Careers was initially being discussed, Joe was immediately intrigued by the idea. As Board Chair of the CPA Education Foundation, he assumes the responsibility of

providing leadership to assist the Foundation in achieving its mandate of strengthening the future of the accounting profession in Alberta.

"To ensure our profession stays strong, we need to invest in the next generation of accountants," Joe states. "The Sparking Great Careers initiative—and in particular the internship program—ensures we are producing well-rounded accounting professionals as our profession enters a new era of business change."

The internship program was developed to "put the accounting path on the radar for all students," according to Joe, including those who don't have any specific ties to the CPA profession. He recalls the "value proposition of the Sparking Great Careers program was to reach out to both high school and post-secondary students to expose them to an accounting career [and to] help alleviate some misconceptions about the modern-day accountant."

Joe says, "In order to be successful as a professional accountant, students must have more than highly technical accounting acumen—they also need to have superior communication skills and be good storytellers."



**TO ENSURE OUR  
PROFESSION STAYS  
STRONG, WE NEED  
TO INVEST IN THE  
NEXT GENERATION  
OF ACCOUNTANTS.**

**Joe Gagliardi FCPA, FCMA**





Standing left to right: Raymond Luu CPA, Darby Skakun, Joe Gagliardi FCPA, FCMA, Snober Bains CPA, CA, and Jason Wong CPA, CMA. Seated: Jann Thai.

That's exactly what the Sparking Great Careers internship program is all about—exposing students to the business world through the eyes of an accountant—and Joe is again leading by example.

In addition to his Board Chair duties, Joe is a Co-founder and Managing Partner of Recruitment Partners, a professional recruitment firm with offices in Edmonton and Calgary. He is also the first business owner to enrol and mentor an intern and help spark a new career.

"It was an easy decision," he recalls. "We are always in the market for summer students and when the CPA Education Foundation initiated the Sparking Great Careers

internship program, we put our hand up immediately!"

Enter Sparking Great Careers' first summer intern student, Jann Thai. Jann began working with Recruitment Partners in May and has already gained valuable on-the-job experience in a professional accounting setting. "It's been great working with Recruitment Partners!" she says. "The atmosphere is very friendly, and everyone made me feel very welcomed as an intern."

Joe echoes that, saying, "Since Jann came on board, we have been utilizing her in many different aspects of our business. Overall, she's been a positive addition to our team in day-to-day tasks."

When asked if he'd recommend hiring a Sparking Great Careers intern, Joe replies with an enthusiastic "Yes! We always have day-to-day tasks coupled with projects that are perfect for a summer student and have found the internship program allowed us to spread our workload out more evenly while allowing a budding accountant a view of the business world."

He strongly encourages other CPA business owners and practitioners to consider opening an internship position or supporting the program in other ways. "The accounting profession affords us an opportunity to be business leaders with a seat at the table," he says. "We need to pay it forward whenever we can by giving of our time, money, or both!"

For those interested in hiring an intern, Joe's advice to them is to be balanced in their approach. "Of course, you can give them simpler tasks commensurate with their limited accounting experience; however, you should always balance this with exposure to more 'professional accounting' work to enhance their understanding of the bigger picture that a future designated accountant would be expected to know. Students that are exposed to accounting duties early on connect the dots better as it pertains to their studies and the real-life application the intern program affords them." □

Every Alberta CPA has the potential to spark a great career. If you or your organization are interested in getting involved with the Sparking Great Careers program, either by offering an internship position, funding a scholarship, or supporting the CPA Education Foundation in other ways, email [cpaef@cpaalberta.ca](mailto:cpaef@cpaalberta.ca), or visit [cpaalberta.ca/Foundation](https://cpaalberta.ca/Foundation) to donate. If you are uncertain about how you wish to contribute, please complete our volunteer/information request form at [cpaalberta.ca/Contact-CPAEF](https://cpaalberta.ca/Contact-CPAEF) and we will provide you with more information.

# ELEVATE WRAP UP



## Another Elevate for the books!

**Elevate 2023, CPA Alberta's premier week-long event, was a huge success! Alberta CPAs celebrated the profession, connected with colleagues, and gained the skills, knowledge, and tools to respond to change and emerging trends.**

Thank you to everyone who attended Elevate 2023. We loved seeing you in person, and we are looking forward to next year already!

### **This year's Elevate highlights included:**

- Recognizing inspiring long-service CPAs at the Chair's Long Service Awards;
- Learning about the hybrid workplace, Alberta's economic trajectory, behavioural ethics, and mental health at the Elevate Your Mind conference;
- Networking and discussing ethics at Wings & Wisdom;
- Supporting non-profit organizations throughout Alberta at CPA Volunteer Days; and
- Honouring the best of the profession—the 2023 Achievement Award recipients—at the Elevate Awards Gala.

Of course, we could not have done it without our generous sponsors: CPA Insurance Plans West, Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer, Recruitment Partners, Contexture, Amplify Advisors, the University of Toronto Mississauga, Cidel Asset Management, the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association, and Iron Spear.

**We hope to see you at Elevate 2024—mark your calendar for the week of May 8-12, 2024.**

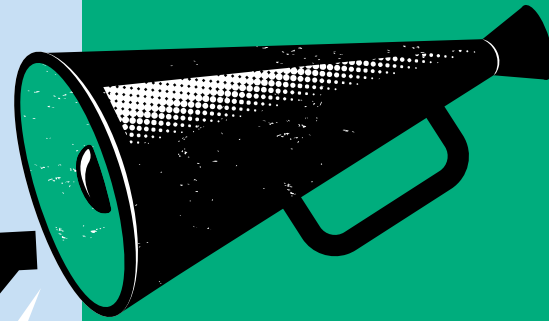
1. Fellowship recipient Stephen Bergstrom FCPA, FCMA (left) and Early Achievement Award recipient Leonard D'Silva CPA, CMA (right) share a candid moment at the Elevate Awards Gala.
2. In Calgary, 50-year recipient Dinesh Dittani FCPA, FCA (left) and his loved ones celebrate his dedicated service at the Chair's Long Service Awards.
3. Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Colette Miller FCPA, FCA applauds the accomplishments of her peers.



4. CPA Alberta CEO Rachel Miller honours the profession's outstanding individuals at the Elevate Awards Gala.
5. Guests connect before the Elevate Awards Gala.
6. A talented magician adds a touch of magic to the Elevate Awards Gala.
7. Elevate Awards Gala guests enjoyed music by Rick Climans Jazz Group.
8. Distinguished Service Award recipient Gerald Whitford with his supporters.







# Shaping the future: **AMPLIFY** your voice with your vote!

**Don't miss your chance to make a direct impact on the future of our profession. It's time to cast your ballot and have your say! From August 14 to September 5, CPA Alberta members in good standing are called upon to vote.**

CPA Alberta's voting process provides the opportunity for you to weigh in on two vital elements of the governance of the profession. The first component is the approval of proposed changes to CPA Alberta's governing documents (including any changes to the Bylaws, Rules of Professional Conduct, and Regulations) by Alberta CPAs. This year, there were no proposed changes to the profession's governing documents, so a regulatory vote is unnecessary.

The second voting component is the election of CPAs to the CPA Alberta Board. CPA Alberta Board members are the bridge between individual members and CPA Alberta. As such, they act as your voice in the governance of your profession by ensuring the opportunities, challenges, and perspective of the membership are reflected as CPA Alberta fulfills its mandate of protecting the public while helping its members succeed. Therefore, it is important you take the time to consider the candidates running for the Board and cast an informed ballot for the individuals you believe would best serve the profession.

The CPA Alberta Board consists of 12 members—nine CPAs and three public representatives. The Board governs the business and affairs of the

organization and helps ensure CPA Alberta meets its mandate under the *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*. Specifically, the Board provides leadership and oversight to the organization's mission, vision, operating principles, strategic plan, and annual operating plan, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer.

### CPA Alberta Board candidates 2023

This year, 11 candidates are running for two open positions on the CPA Alberta Board.

You may also wish to consider that the CPA Alberta Governance Committee has identified the following competency areas, professional experience, and characteristics that would be the ideal fit to strengthen the expertise of the CPA Alberta Board. The ideal candidate would meet some, but not necessarily all, of the following criteria:

- ✓ Reflect the diversity of the CPA Alberta membership
- ✓ Possess government relations skills and experience
- ✓ Have knowledge of or experience in the legal field
- ✓ Understand information technology and its impacts and potential for the CPA profession
- ✓ Have an understanding of the perspective of rural members of the profession and communities
- ✓ Bring a public practice perspective

### VOTING PERIOD

Monday, August 14 to  
Tuesday, September 5.

### CPA ALBERTA BOARD COMPOSITION



Open Board positions: 2  
Number of candidates: 11

### WHO CAN VOTE?

CPA Alberta members  
in good standing.

### WHERE TO VOTE?

Visit [cpaalberta.ca/vote](https://cpaalberta.ca/vote)

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO VOTE

Your CPA Alberta member  
number or username

(Forgot it? Click on the  
"Retrieve login" link on the  
member login page.)

Your CPA Alberta  
website password

(Forgot it? Click on the "reset  
password" link on the member  
login page.)

### VOTE RESULTS

Announced at the  
CPA Alberta AGM on  
Thursday, September 7.

### MORE INFORMATION

Visit [cpaalberta.ca/vote](https://cpaalberta.ca/vote)

## Julie Oliver CPA, CA

### Red Deer



#### Professional career

- Partner, MNP LLP (2009 – present)
- Various positions, MNP LLP (2005 – 2009)
- Bookkeeper, Sundre Contracting (2003)
- Staff Accountant, BDO (1996 – 2000)
- Chartered Professional Accountant (2000)
- BComm, University of Calgary (1997)

#### Relevant activities

- Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta Practice Review Committee member (2021 – present)
- Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) Board of Governors member, audit committee (2019 – present)
- Red Deer Downtown Business Association Board member and treasurer (2014 – 2016 and 2019 – 2021)
- Co-founder and leader of a Business Women's Networking Group in Central Alberta (ongoing)
- Junior Achievement volunteer for several years
- Caroline and District Chamber of Commerce Board Treasurer (2006 – 2007)

#### Candidate statement

Throughout my 27-year career in accounting, I have been dedicated to quality, life-long learning and giving back, and feel my skill set and governance experience will be a way to give back to the members of CPA Alberta. The last few years have been hard in Central Alberta with the pandemic, economic strain, and significant changes for the members of our profession. These factors have resulted in fewer people choosing to either start on the path of becoming a CPA or remaining in public practice, and strain on resources in public practice which can impact quality. That is why my priorities in joining the Board include working toward the continued protection of the public and fulfilling market needs through the attraction and development of members. Promoting the profession and ensuring that high-quality resources are available to meet the needs of candidates and members is integral to achieving these priorities. I hope that this and the following information provides insight into who I am and conveys the interest I have in joining and the value I would bring to this Board.

#### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

Our profession has faced and continues to face significant change. Some recent examples include changes to our CPA education program, ESG measures and the impacts they have had, and will continue to have in the future, on reporting, technology, tax reporting changes (such as UHT), and accounting and assurance standards changes. While our members are uniquely skilled to help clients and others manage through this, CPA Alberta will need to provide members with access to resources and continued relevant education. Protecting the public means ensuring that all CPAs are aware of the changing standards and have access to education, templates, examples, etc. so that clients of all sizes of practitioners will get quality advice from knowledgeable members of the profession.

#### How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?

I have developed several skills and abilities and an abundance of governance and business-related experience that will benefit the CPA Alberta Board. I am a strong and confident communicator. I lead the Central Alberta team in ensuring assurance engagement quality and professional accountability as well as plan and deliver relevant, quality education, perform quality management inspections, and have assisted our firm in the changes for CSQM 1 and 2 and CAS 315. This means that I help the team with change management including embracing technology changes (such as Mindbridge). I bring a perspective of public practice and having lived and worked in rural Alberta, I understand the perspectives of rural community members. My RDP connection offers a unique perspective on the challenges we face in attracting candidates to the profession. I have the strength, passion, energy, experience, and commitment to be a valuable part of the CPA Alberta Board.



# Ada Adeleke-Kelani CPA, CA

## Calgary



### Professional career

- Manager of Audit Projects, Office of the Auditor General of Alberta (2019 – present)
- Career Transformation Coach, Higher Landing (2018 – 2019)
- Procurement Manager Unconventionals, Shell Canada Limited (2016 – 2018)
- Americas Region Requisition-to-Pay (RtP) Operations Manager, Shell Canada Limited (2015 – 2016)
- Americas Region Fixed Assets Accounting Manager, Shell Canada Limited (2013 – 2015)
- Senior Project Analyst, Shell Canada Limited (2011 – 2013)
- Senior Internal Auditor, Shell Canada Limited (2008 – 2011)
- Accounting Supervisor, Catalyst LLP (now Baker Tilly Catalyst LLP) (2007)
- Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers (2006)
- Regional Branch Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers (2000)
- Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers (1992)
- Senior Associate, Price Waterhouse (1994)
- Associate, Price Waterhouse (1992)
- Assistant Head of Payroll, Federal Housing Authority (1991)

### Designations

- Certified Leadership Coach (CLC) (2018)
- MBA (International Business Management), Northeastern University, Boston (2012)
- M.Sc. (Finance), Northeastern University, Boston (2012)
- CPA, CA, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta (ICAA) (2009)
- FCA, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) (2009)
- ACA, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) (1996)
- BSc (Hons), Accountancy (1991)

### Relevant activities

- Mentor, Internationally Trained Professionals (ITPs) and CPA students (2012 – present)
- Board Member, Immigrant Services Calgary (2018 – present)
  - Member, Finance Committee, Immigrant Services Calgary (2023 – present)
  - Member (and past Chair), Governance and HR Committee, Immigrant Services Calgary (2018 – present)
- Mentor, Internationally Trained Professionals, Calgary Region Immigrant Employment Council, (2011 – present)
- Board Member/Chair, Calgary Region Immigrant Employment Council (2015 – 2018)
- Assistant General Secretary, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) Canada District Society (2021 – 2023)
- Higher Landing, Grizzly Den panel member (2019 – present)
- Volunteer, Employment Life Skills Program; Image Consultant: Walk-In Closet; former Board Member/Chair of Governance Committee, Dress for Success (formerly Making Changes Association) (2010 – present)
- Head of Finance and Administration, King's Throne Calgary (2010 – present)
- Treasurer, Supply Chain Management Association (SCMA) Alberta (2018)

### Candidate statement

Being a member of the accounting profession for over 25 years (and counting) has been a rewarding experience. I have worked in public practice, industry, and the public sector and I have also had the opportunity to serve on different boards. As such, I believe I have the experience and skills to add value to our members as a member of the CPA Alberta Board.

In addition to my diverse work experience, I will add diversity to the board based on my lived experience which includes having lived and worked in different countries and continents. For instance, I have firsthand experience as an established professional who immigrated and had to start from scratch to obtain the appropriate professional designation in order to move from surviving to thriving in a new environment.

I will support CPA Alberta in fulfilling its purpose to: protect the public; protect the integrity of the accounting profession regulated under the Act; promote and increase the competence of registrants; and regulate the conduct of registrants. I will share strategies to support more students in achieving the success they desire—a desire I believe CPA Alberta also has for them. ›

*Ada Adeleke-Kelani CPA, CA continued*

### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

Technology and talent are two of the major things impacting the CPA/accounting profession. In recent years, especially post-pandemic, the pace of technological advancement has accelerated. With technology such as optical character recognition (OCR), artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), cloud computing, and more recently, ChatGPT, many traditional accounting roles seem to be on the verge of disappearing or have been replaced by technology. CPAs need to retool so that appropriate talent is available to support businesses locally and globally in the various areas that technology never can.

As I mentioned during the panel discussion at CPA Alberta's 2023 ITAC Conference, every CPA needs to have a growth mindset—that is the only way for CPAs to remain relevant and avoid becoming relics. CPA Alberta can provide appropriate learning, unlearning, and relearning opportunities for its members so that they are ready for the future—which is already here.

### How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?

I have served and continue to serve on various boards, including as a board chair and as chair of the Governance/HR Committees. I have a good understanding of the purpose of an organization's vision, mission/mandate, and the importance of ensuring that the strategic priorities and operational plans align to these.

Furthermore, I understand the importance of knowing various stakeholders' needs and expectations of the organization. For CPA Alberta specifically, I know that the government, business organizations, and even individuals have certain expectations of CPAs. And my years of mentoring various individuals, including CPAs and internationally trained professionals, have also provided me with information on what current and aspiring CPAs need in order to thrive. I will willingly share my experience and ideas while being open to listening to other people's ideas so that together we can offer the best possible solutions to fulfil CPA Alberta's 'social contract' with all stakeholders.

## Rana Singh CPA, CGA Calgary

### Professional career

- Director, Accounting, PBS Systems (2023 – present)
- Eight different roles as part of rotation program, Imperial Oil Ltd. (2007 – 2023)
- CGA designation (2011)
- MBA, McGill University, Montreal (2007)
- BComm, Concordia University, Montreal (2002)

### Relevant activities

- Coach, Calgary Glenmore U4–U9 Grassroots Program (2022)
- Mentor, Imperial Oil Mentorship Program (2019 – 2022)
- Judge, University of Calgary Accounting Case Competition (2017)
- Volunteer, Twin, Triplet and More Association of Calgary (2017 – 2020)

- Treasurer, Newbury in Garrison Green (2014 – 2016)
- VP Finance, McGill University MBA Student's Association (2006 – 2007)
- VP Finance, Concordia International Student's Association (2000 – 2002)

### Candidate statement

I have been an active member of the profession for the past twelve years. Over the course of my professional career, I have had the opportunity to work in eight different roles, including audit and financial reporting at an integrated oil and gas company. Recently, I made a personal decision to leave the oil and gas sector to work at an IT software company, overseeing accounting operations.

I have been extremely fortunate to develop my professional skills due to the guidance and mentorship that I have received from my fellow accountants. I am at a point in my career where I can contribute to the CPA organization and feel that this is the right time in my personal journey to work and advocate for CPAs across Alberta. If elected, I will seek to understand and work meticulously within the existing CPA parameters to ensure CPA members get value for their annual membership fees as well as receive adequate support by having access to suitable resources. ›





*Rana Singh CPA, CGA continued*

### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

The recent news that CPA Ontario and CPA Quebec decided to leave CPA Canada will have a long-lasting impact on our profession. To promote the value of the CPA designation and face generational challenges like Artificial Intelligence and global sustainability, we need to strengthen the CPA brand. This means all provincial, territorial, and Bermudian boards need to start working together collaboratively and positively. CPA Alberta can and should take the lead in ensuring that no further public disagreements take place, and all provincial bodies are united in building trust with members and the public at large.

### How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?

I have studied and worked in three different provinces—Alberta, Quebec, and Ontario—giving me a unique insight into the culture and work ethic of each of these provinces. In addition, I have worked in both public and private companies which has helped me recognize the value a CPA brings, while being cognizant of the needs of a CPA member.

I will use my skills and knowledge to promote the CPA brand to the next generation, including building trust and regaining confidence while protecting public interest. I will work closely with current board members who all have incredible experience and knowledge in regulatory, legal, financial, and business affairs. As a complete outsider, I will bring a fresh and alternative perspective to the CPA Alberta Board while ensuring CPA members voices are heard.

## Kola Oladimeji CPA, CGA Calgary

### Professional career

#### Employment

- Senior Director of Finance/CFO, McMan Youth, Family and Community Services (2022 – present) – NPFO
- Director of Finance/CFO, Immigrant Services, Calgary (2021 – 2022) – NPFO
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Town of High River, Alberta (2017 – 2020) – Municipality
- Director Financial Services, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Fort McMurray, Alberta (2012 – 2016) – Municipality
- Director of Finance/CFO, Athabasca Tribal Council, Fort McMurray (2018 – 2019) – First Nations NPFO
- Shared Services and Change Director, Diageo/Guinness Plc, London, United Kingdom (2007 – 2009) – Manufacturing
- Financial Controller, Guinness Nigeria Plc (2004 – 2006)

#### Designations

- CPA Alberta (2016)
- CGA Alberta (2011)
- FCA, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) (1990)
- ACA, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) (1988)
- MBA, University of Benin, Nigeria (2000)

#### Volunteer services

- CPA Alberta, Mentorship Program (2017 – present)
- CPA Alberta, Tax Clinic Program (2021 – present)
- CGA Alberta, Exam Supervisor (2012 – 2015)
- Calgary Board of Education (CBE), Board-appointed Audit and Risk Committee (2022 – present)
- Belgravia Square Condominium Association, Board Member/Treasurer (2021 – present)
- Nigerian Canadian Association of Calgary, Executive Member/Treasurer (2021 – 2023)
- High River Regional Airport, Board Member/Treasurer (2018 – 2020)
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Canada District Society, Chairman (2017 – 2019) ›



*Kola Oladimeji CPA, CGA continued*

### Candidate statement

As an active member of the accounting profession for the last three decades in Canada and internationally, I have reached the pinnacle of my professional career where I feel I have the knowledge, experience, and passion needed to benefit Alberta CPAs and the CPA Alberta Board. As a board member, I will work diligently to ensure that CPA Alberta maintains its self-regulating status, protects the public, and provides the services required to ensure Alberta CPAs can achieve success in collaboration with other provincial CPA boards and explore new pathways for new CPAs and the future of accounting.

### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

The future of the accounting profession in the era of advanced technology, for example, Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, blockchains, and cryptocurrency, and its significant impacts on the future of CPAs. These fundamental changes will require CPAs to have appropriate IT and strategic skills to effectively leverage the technology. Understanding the bigger picture of organizations and working as a valuable business

partner beyond historical accounting bookkeeping that can now be automated and efficiently performed by a robot rather than humans. The best way for CPA Alberta to respond is to undergo a thorough review of the syllabus with an emphasis on technology, leadership, and business partnership as a value-adding business partner.

### How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?

My leadership and board experience, diversity, and international exposure provide me with a solid understanding of the mandate and governance of a professional regulatory organization. Also, my career in a variety of industries has given me insights into the Alberta business environment and the trends that will impact our province. Further, I understand the needs and expectations that the business community has for CPAs and the competencies that will help CPAs meet those needs, now and in the future. As well, I have devoted a large amount of time in the past seven years to mentoring and coaching the next generation of CPAs and I am ready to continue using my skills and expertise to support CPA Alberta in successfully navigating through these challenges.

## Irfanali Moledina CPA, CA Calgary

### Professional career

- Managing Partner, RMI Professional Corporation (2011 – present)
  - Built company from ground up to over 35 staff
  - Currently servicing over 1,000 corporate clients and over 1,500 individual clients
- Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer, Natural Distributions Ltd (2011 – present)
  - Founded and helped grow a product-based business from the ground up to over \$2m in annual sales
- Accountant, Varty Wood Chartered Accountants (2010)
- Staff Accountant, Deloitte (2007 – 2010)

### Relevant activities

- Bow Valley Accounting Advisory Board member (2014 – present)
- Member, Entrepreneurs Organization (2019 – present)
- Enactus Calgary, board member (2008 – 2020)
- Finance Chair, Ismaili National Settlement Portfolio (2016 – 2019)
- CPA Alberta Early Achievement Award recipient (2016)
- Finance Chair, Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board for the Prairies (2008 – 2011)

### Candidate statement

Throughout my extensive experience as a CPA, I have witnessed firsthand the evolving landscape and challenges faced by our profession while gaining a deep understanding of the profession's current and future needs. If elected, my key priorities will be promoting continuous professional development to ensure CPAs stay ahead of emerging trends. I will advocate for innovative training programs, fostering a culture of ethical behavior, and maintaining the public's trust in our profession. ›





*Irfanali Moledina CPA, CA continued*

I am dedicated to serving the CPA community and look forward to contributing to the growth and success of our profession on the CPA Alberta Board.

### **What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?**

I believe that some of the biggest potential impacts on our profession are:

Technological advancements due to the advancement of technology including automation and AI. CPA Alberta can respond by continuing to offer professional development programs and courses to help CPAs acquire relevant skills and knowledge in areas like data analytics, AI, and cybersecurity.

Regulatory changes due to constant changes in policies and taxation for the accounting industry. CPA can support its members by providing regular updates on regulatory changes, organizing training sessions, and offering resources to help CPAs understand and implement new requirements.

Reduction of talent pool as more baby boomers retire and younger individuals avoid the accounting profession, there is a lack of CPA professionals in the workforce today. CPA can continue to build the CPA brand and focus recruitment at high schools, colleges, and universities to ensure individuals continue to join the profession.

Meeting clients' expectations as clients now expect CPAs to provide value-added services beyond traditional accounting

and tax compliance. CPA can assist its members by offering training programs and resources that help CPAs broaden their skill sets and meet the changing needs of clients.

### **How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?**

I bring a very diverse and different skill set to the CPA Alberta Board. Being a small business practitioner, I have predominantly worked in an area that has been underrepresented on the CPA Board in years past. Further, an entrepreneurial background allows me to bring a different perspective to issues and challenges facing stakeholders of the CPA profession.

This diverse background has allowed me to stay ahead in cutting-edge technologies such as cryptocurrency and e-commerce accounting and taxation. My past board and volunteer positions allow me to bring professional experience in a governance role where I can ensure a positive impact on the CPA profession.

The strategic priorities outlined by the CPA Alberta Board are well represented in the work I have done. This is evident from the growth of our firm where we pushed to become a CPA training office to fulfill a market need. In addition to this, I was the national finance member for the Ismaili Settlement Committee where I was able to showcase the varying skill sets that CPAs have, including being responsible, accountable, and resilient, like the CPA organization.

## **Nizam Shajani CPA, CA** **Calgary**

### **Professional career**

- Partner in charge of tax, assurance, and compliance at Shajani Chartered Professional Accountants & Advisors (2007 – present)
- Senior Accountant at Mackay LLP Chartered Accountants (2006 – 2007)
- Accountant at Deloitte (2004 – 2006)

### **Education and designations**

- Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of York (2023)
- Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP) from the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (2022)
- Master of Laws - Tax (LL.M) from York University (2021)
- In-Depth Tax Certification from Chartered Professional Accountants Canada (2016)
- Master of Business Administration - Accounting and Finance (MBA) from the University of Liverpool (2012)
- Chartered Accountant and Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) from the Chartered Accountants School of Business (2008)
- Bachelor of Applied Business Administration (Accounting) (BBA) from Mount Royal University (2004) ›



*Nizam Shajani CPA, CA continued*

### Candidate statement

With nearly twenty years in the profession, I have gained valuable experience in public practice across diverse firm sizes and settings. My strong background in law, commerce, and finance complements the Board effectively.

At this crucial point in my professional journey, I possess a wealth of knowledge, extensive experience, and unwavering dedication. I genuinely believe that these qualities make me an ideal candidate to contribute to the growth and development of Alberta CPAs.

I am committed to diligently serving our esteemed members' interests as a board member. I will prioritize their success while safeguarding CPA Alberta's self-regulating status, understanding the significance of this responsibility. Upholding the integrity and professionalism associated with the CPA designation is of utmost importance to me.

The evolving landscape in other provincial bodies necessitates strong representation in Alberta. I recognize that effective leadership entails understanding our members' positions and gaining influence to further their interests in conjunction with these bodies. My sincere and empathetic personality makes me well-suited to achieve these goals.

In conclusion, I offer my genuine dedication and expertise to serve as a valuable asset on the Board, working tirelessly for the benefit of Alberta CPAs and the accounting profession as a whole.

### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

As technology continues to revolutionize the accounting profession, it is crucial for CPAs to embrace these advancements. However, what will truly set us apart is our commitment to advancing and promoting the intrinsic value of our members.

Although numbers continue to be essential for accountants, the significance of effective communication and addressing non-financial matters has risen dramatically. As CPAs, we need to possess critical thinking skills, adopt holistic problem-solving approaches, and establish meaningful connections.

People expect us to consider the broader implications and the impact our actions have on various stakeholders. By displaying our capacity to think beyond the numerical aspects, we can build trust and deliver value that surpasses expectations.

As professionals, we must continuously strive to enhance our skills, stay updated with technological advancements, and cultivate the necessary traits that differentiate us from machines. Our ability to combine technical expertise with a human touch will ensure our success.

### How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?

My diverse background, encompassing law, commerce, and finance, makes me uniquely suited to contribute effectively to the Board. This multidimensional expertise enables me to approach issues from multiple angles, offering a well-rounded perspective that aligns with the Board's requirements. I can bring a diverse set of skills and knowledge to the table, enhancing the Board's ability to address the complex issues facing the accounting profession today.

Furthermore, my track record of commitment and dedication is evident in my career achievements and continued professional development. I have consistently sought opportunities to expand my knowledge and stay up to date with industry advancements.

Beyond my experience and qualifications, I am driven by a genuine passion for the accounting profession and a desire to serve the CPA community. Together, we can drive positive change, foster innovation, and shape the future of the accounting profession for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.

## Shahid Qureshi CPA, CGA Calgary

### Professional career

- Chief Executive Officer, Leverage Global Inc.
- International Corporate Board Director for publicly listed corporations
- Chair, Board of Directors, Calgary Parking Authority
- Board Director, Parks Canada
- Board Director, Chair Audit Committee, Magnetic North Acquisition Corp. (TSXV, MNC)
- Vice Chair, Board of Directors CCIS (Largest immigrant settlement service in Alberta) ›





*Shahid Qureshi CPA, CGA continued*

- Chair, ACCA Canada (Chartered Association of Certified Accountants)
- Member, ACCA International Assembly
- Member, ACCA Global Forum on Governance, Risk, and Performance
- Chair, ISACA Calgary, Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA)
- Board Member, Treasurer, and Chair Audit Committee, FFCA Charter School
- Board Member, Institute of Internal Auditors, Calgary Chapter
- Member Audit Committee, City of Calgary
- Member Investment Committee, TCF Canada
- Member Audit Committee, CCVO
- Senior Manager, KPMG Canada

### Relevant activities

- Chair, Calgary Chapter of CPAs
- Recipient of “Distinguished Service Award” from CPA Alberta in 2018
- Mentor, CPA Alberta Mentorship Program
- Member Advisory Committee, Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB)
- Fellow of ACCA UK
- Mentor, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary
- Mentor, Platform Calgary
- Member, ISACA She-Leads-Tech Advisory Committee
- Member ISACA Cyber Security Committee
- Mentor, Jumpstart Refugee Talent
- Mentor, Calgary Region Immigrant Employment Council (CRIEC)
- Certified Corporate Director (ICD.D)
- Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)
- Chartered Certified Accountant (UK)
- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)
- Bachelor’s in Commerce
- Master’s in Economics

### Candidate statement

I believe I have the right skills and experience to add value to the desired competencies highlighted by the CPA Alberta Governance Committee. I have significant international governance experience with member-based professional organizations for more than two decades.

**Government relations:** I am a Board Director with Parks Canada and have served as a member of the audit committee for the City of Calgary and as the Chair of the Calgary Parking Authority. I have been involved with advocacy work with Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments for over a decade. I am a Board member of FFCA, the largest Charter School in Alberta.

**Information technology:** As a Certified Technology professional, I possess extensive experience in utilizing technology to establish and strengthen sustainable competitive advantages for businesses. Additionally, I hold expertise as an expert reviewer of Cyber Security Governance for ISACA and specialize in Technology Entrepreneurship. Furthermore, I actively engage with the Alberta Tech start-up community and serve as a mentor at Platform Calgary.

**Public practice:** With over 13 years of experience at KPMG, I have a strong background in Audit, Tax, and Advisory. In my role as a Board Director and Chair of the Audit Committee, I closely collaborate with leading accounting firms worldwide.

### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

The CPA profession is significantly impacted in current times by rapid advancements in technology, such as automation and artificial intelligence that are reshaping traditional accounting practices. Regulatory changes, including tax reforms and increased scrutiny on financial reporting, demand CPAs stay updated with evolving standards. The pandemic has also brought remote work and virtual collaboration to the forefront, requiring CPAs to adapt to new ways of delivering services and maintaining client relationships. Furthermore, the growing importance of sustainability and environmental reporting adds another layer of responsibility for CPAs to navigate. CPAs must embrace digital transformation, remain agile, and uphold ethical standards to thrive in this dynamic landscape.

By embracing technology, fostering continuous learning, promoting collaboration, prioritizing client needs, and upholding ethical standards, CPAs can effectively respond to the changes and position themselves for success in the dynamic landscape of the profession.

### How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?

My diversified international board experience in member-based organizations provides me with a solid understanding of the mandate and priorities of CPA Alberta. My governance experience in the public, private, and government sectors has given me insights into the global and Canadian business environment and the trends that will impact our profession.

My involvement with technical journals and research around technology and its impact on the finance profession has provided me with a broader vision of the path forward for the CPA profession.

Further, I understand the needs and expectations the business community has for CPAs, the expectations gaps, and the competencies that will help CPAs meet those needs, now and in the future.

I have created value and played my role as a leader to transform many organizations and am ready to share my insights into how the profession can best assist current and prospective CPAs thrive in our new reality.

# Maxim Atanassov CPA, CA

## Calgary



### Professional career

- Parkland, Director, Governance, Risk, Technology and Transformation Advisory (2022 – present)
- Future Ventures, a private equity and venture studio company, General Partner (2018 – present)
- IUVO Consulting, a business and digital transformation consultancy, Partner (2021 – present)
- Husky Energy: Director, Internal Audit (2019 – 2021)
- Pembina Pipeline, Chief Audit Executive (2015 – 2018)
- Deloitte, Senior Manager, Risk Advisory (2012 – 2015)
- EY, Senior Manager, Technology and Risk Advisory (2002 – 2012)
- University of New Brunswick, BBA E-Commerce (2002)
- Designations, CPA-CA (2005), CISA (2005), PROSCI (2023)

### Relevant activities

- Board Member/Chair of five private companies (2018 – present)
- Reported to the Board of Directors of publicly traded Canadian companies (2015 – 2021)
- Board Member, Calgary Institute of Internal Auditors Chapter (2013 – 2014)
- Member of various committees with Saint John Board of Trade (2000 – 2003), Halifax Chamber of Commerce (2003 – 2004), Calgary Chamber of Commerce (2007 – 2009)

### Candidate statement

As a dedicated member of the CPA profession for the past 20+ years, I am eager to contribute my knowledge, experience, and passion to serve Alberta CPAs and the CPA Alberta Board. My background in business transformation, risk management, and strategic leadership allows me to understand the challenges and opportunities of Alberta CPAs.

If elected to the board, I will prioritize the following objectives:

- **Supporting success:** I will advocate for resources and services that empower Alberta CPAs to thrive in their careers. This includes fostering professional development opportunities, promoting innovation, and providing the tools needed to excel in an ever-changing business environment.
- **Driving partnerships:** Collaborating with industry associations, educational institutions, and businesses to foster strong partnerships and enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the CPA profession in a rapidly changing business landscape.
- **Embracing technology:** Emphasizing technology and providing resources and support to help Alberta CPAs embrace and embed emerging technologies, enabling them to adapt and thrive in the digital era.

I am committed to serving the CPA Alberta Board and the CPA Alberta members to propel the profession forward in Alberta. Your support for my candidacy will allow me to make a lasting impact on our profession and the practitioners within it.

### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

The CPA profession is significantly impacted by rapid technological advancements, evolving business environment, competition from non-traditional providers, regulatory and demographic changes, and a reduced desire for young professionals to pursue a traditional path.

CPA Alberta should respond by:

- Implementing strategies that modernize the curriculum and promote continuous professional development to keep members updated on emerging areas and industry trends.
- Emphasizing integration of technology and offering resources and support on how to embrace and embed emerging technologies.
- Collaborating with industry associations, educational institutions, and businesses to facilitate knowledge-sharing, address emerging challenges, and promote the profession as a desirable career path.
- Providing resources and training to help CPAs adapt to their evolving roles, rapidly changing technology, and the business environment with increasing globalization. ›



Maxim Atanassov CPA, CA continued

- Advocacy efforts and thought leadership initiatives to position CPA Alberta as a respected authority in actively shaping the profession's future.
- Enhancing visibility of the CPA profession among students and young professionals through storytelling, targeted marketing, and outreach efforts highlighting the diverse career opportunities and career paths, the potential for growth, and the value of the CPA designation in various industries.
- Fostering adaptability and providing support, CPA Alberta can ensure its members thrive amidst the changing impacts on the CPA profession.

**How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?**

As a CPA with 20+ years of experience in public practice, technology, innovation, and ESG, I bring valuable

skills and perspectives to the CPA Alberta Board and the governance of the CPA profession:

- My public practice background helps me understand professional services firms' and client needs and allows me to shape policies that support those.
- Dual focus on business and technology provides crucial insights into modernizing the CPA profession and adapting to rapid technological advancements.
- My breadth of experience equips me to contribute to thought leadership, policy development, and advocacy initiatives, propelling the profession forward.
- As a first-generation immigrant, I bring a unique perspective, passionately advocating for diversity and inclusion within the profession.
- Moreover, my entrepreneurial focus is an inspirational guide for aspiring CPAs who envision pursuing non-traditional paths. Together, we can forge a vibrant future for the CPA profession in Alberta.

## Richard Mussenden CPA, CA, CPA (IL, USA) Calgary

### Professional career

- Partner, KPMG Calgary (2017 – present)
- Partner, KPMG Edmonton (2006 – 2017)
- Senior Manager, KPMG Toronto (2004 – 2006)
- Senior Manager, KPMG Kelowna (1996 – 2004)
- Assistant Controller, Far West Ind. (1995 – 1996)
- CPA (Illinois) (1998)
- CPA, CA (1997)
- BBA (with distinction), Okanagan University College

### Relevant activities

- Board Member and Treasurer, MUSC Youth Soccer Club (2018 – 2020)
- Board Member and Treasurer, Downtown Edmonton Association (2013 – 2017)
- Member, Edmonton Executives Association (2011 – 2017)
- Member, Business Advisory Committee, Okanagan University College (1999 – 2003)

### Candidate statement

I have been an active member of the profession for over 27 years. More than half of my career has been spent in Alberta, working in both Edmonton and Calgary with a wide range of clients from across the province. I have reached a stage in my career where I can meaningfully give back to the profession by contributing my diverse skill set and experience. As a board member, I will work tirelessly to support CPA Alberta to ensure we continue to support all our members, protect the public interest, protect the integrity of the profession, and advocate for the profession.

### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

I see two significant opportunities impacting the profession. The first is attracting students to the profession. We need to work closely with educational institutions to emphasize the value that a CPA designation delivers and how students can leverage the designation into a wealth of professional opportunities. We also need to listen to students in order to understand why application rates are declining and respond in a proactive manner. ›



*Richard Mussenden CPA, CA, CPA (IL, USA) continued*

The second opportunity impacting the profession is the current turmoil and uncertainty caused by CPA Ontario and CPA Quebec announcing their intent to separate from CPA Canada. The 2014 merger of the accounting professions cleared up the ambiguity of the accounting profession in Canada and gave us one voice with regulators, the public, and other stakeholders. We need to work closely with CPA Canada and other provincial institutes to ensure the integrity and unification of the profession.

**How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?**

Throughout my professional career, I have worked in industry and a variety of practices from two-partner

offices to offices with several hundred partners. I have also worked across multiple industries with clients that are publicly traded and those that are privately owned. This diverse skill set enables me to understand and advocate for all CPA Alberta members, regardless of where they practice. As a partner serving private organizations, as well as some of Alberta's largest organizations, I understand effective governance and business practices for organizations of all sizes. My diverse industry experience has given me insights into business trends and expectations influencing the profession. Furthermore, throughout my career, I have devoted significant time to coaching and mentoring CPA professionals. I believe connecting with CPAs at all stages of their career is critical to the health of the profession and provides me with insights and perspective on what resonates with the next generation of CPAs.

## Stephen Bergstrom FCPA, FCMA Calgary

### Professional career

- Semi-retired (2022 – present)
- Instructor, Academic Chair, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) (2005 – 2022)
- Session Leader, CPA Western School of Business (2017 – present)
- Manager, Finance and Administration, SNC Lavalin PAE (Afghanistan) (2004 – 2005)
- Program Finance and Administration Manager, ATCO Frontec (Bosnia) (2001 – 2003)
- Manager, Accounting and Administration, Sanmina Canada (1998 – 2001)
- Fellowship designation (2023)
- Designation (1994) (CMA)
- Master of Business Administration, Athabasca University (2004)

### Relevant activities

- Board member, CPA Education Foundation (2017 – present, term expires September 2023)
- Audit Committee, Nominations Committee
- Committee member, CPA Alberta Bylaws and Rules Committee (2019 – present)
- Practical Experience Requirement mentor (2016 – present)
- Committee member, SAIT Academic Policy Subcommittee (2014 – 2022)
- Board member, Alberta Theatre Projects (2023 – present)

### Candidate statement

Giving back to the profession has always been important to me. My career has encompassed a broad range of different industries, reflective of the diverse areas in which CPAs operate. As an educator, I have focused on giving accounting students the opportunity to explore all the possibilities our profession has to offer. For many years, I have been an active volunteer for CPA Alberta, attending many functions and events as a passionate promoter of the profession. For almost six years, I have served with pride on the Board of Governors of the CPA Education Foundation. As my second term on the board draws to a close, I want to continue to be involved in the leadership and governance of the profession in a significant way. Joining the CPA Alberta Board is a next step that I am eager to take. ›





*Stephen Bergstrom FCPA, FCMA continued*

### What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?

Change is the only constant these days, especially in our profession. The growing use of artificial intelligence, forthcoming sustainability standards, and the recent announcements by CPA Ontario and CPA Quebec will each bring unique challenges to the profession in the coming years. Our best response to these challenges is to resist the temptation to hold on to “how we used to do it.” Challenges also bring opportunities, and many of these challenges offer exciting areas of growth. I believe we need to work collaboratively, maintain our focus on the greater good of the profession, and our mandates of protecting the public and ensuring a sustainable professional accounting ecosystem.

### How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?

My six years of experience on the CPA Education Foundation Board, combined with my extensive volunteer work for the profession, gives me a solid understanding and appreciation of the work of CPA Alberta and the CPA Alberta Board. My years on SAIT’s Academic Policy Subcommittee and the CPA Alberta Bylaws and Rules Committee have developed a strong knowledge of policymaking and governance. My work experience covers a wide range of sectors, including academia, manufacturing, oil and gas, not-for-profit, and the public sector, giving me insight into many areas of importance for today’s CPAs. I believe that my experience and passion for the profession will enable me to make a strong, positive contribution to the CPA Alberta Board.

## Uche P. Ezetah CPA, CMA Calgary

### Professional career

Senior accounting professional with board and management experience. Over 19 years of operational, reporting, and consolidation experience for various organizations with revenue ranging from \$700 million to \$13 billion, financial reporting under IFRS, MD&A, financial statement notes, and cash management.

- Controller, Platform Calgary (2022 – present)
- General Manager, Finance and Housing, Clyde River Housing Association (2020 – 2022)
- Manager, Financial Reporting, Avenue Living Asset Management (2017 – 2020)
- Financial Reporting Specialist, ENMAX Corporation (2015 – 2017)
- Senior Reporting Analyst, Black Diamond Group Limited (2014 – 2015)
- Senior Accountant – External Reporting, Viterra Inc. (2010 – 2013)
- Senior Accountant, Smart Technologies ULC (2004 – 2010)
- Senior Accountant, Audit, Raphael Anyanwu & Co (Nigeria) (1998 – 2002)

### Relevant activities

- Member, Audit and Finance Committee of the Board of Directors, Accessible Housing Calgary
- Former member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer, Kids for Developmental Services
- Former member of the Institute of Corporate Directors of Canada
- Currently placed on the reserve list of the Anti-Racism Action Committee by the Council of the City of Calgary
- Director of Finance, Igbo Cultural Association of Calgary, Canada (2010 – 2016)

### Candidate statement

I am excited to apply for a position on the CPA Alberta Board. As a CPA with over 19 years of industry experience, I have a lot to offer to the board. I am passionate about the profession and committed to its growth and development.

My priorities for the board include the following:

- Propagating the opportunities available through the CPA designation to Alberta’s underrepresented and immigrant communities.
- Promoting diversity and inclusion within the profession. ›



Uche P. Ezetah CPA, CMA continued

- Advocating for the interests of underrepresented CPAs in the province.

We can continue ensuring the profession remains relevant and valuable to businesses and individuals in immigrant communities. My experience, skills, and passion for the profession make me an ideal candidate for the board.

I look forward to working with other CPA Alberta Board members to make a difference in the profession and to contribute my knowledge and expertise to the board.

Thank you for considering my application.

### **What do you see impacting the CPA profession, and how can CPA Alberta best respond?**

Several factors are currently impacting the CPA profession, but the most significant is the rapid advancement of technology. With the advent of artificial intelligence, there are fears that, in the future, software may be replacing CPAs.

Another factor impacting the CPA profession is increased competition in the current loosely regulated professional practice landscape. More accountants and financial professionals are constantly entering the field, making it challenging for CPAs to stand out and attract new clients.

To respond to these challenges, CPA Alberta should focus on providing its members with the educational tools and resources they need to adapt

to these changes. In addition, there are still plenty of opportunities for those willing to explore immigrant and underrepresented communities. By staying up to date on the latest trends and exploring immigrant and underrepresented communities, CPAs can position themselves as valuable and trustworthy advisors to their clients.

### **How do your skills and background position you to positively contribute to the CPA Alberta Board and lead the governance of the profession?**

As a professional with over 19 years of experience in accounting, my diverse skills and background have positioned me well to contribute to the CPA Alberta Board positively. With years of experience in financial reporting, implementation, and financial analysis, I deeply understand the profession's challenges and opportunities.

In addition, I have strong leadership and board experience and have worked with diverse teams to achieve common goals. My ability to listen actively, communicate effectively, and build consensus will be invaluable in leading the profession's governance and promoting its continued growth and success.

My skills and experience make me a strong candidate to serve on the CPA Alberta Board and contribute to its essential work. I am committed to using my expertise to help shape the profession's future and ensure it remains a trusted and respected part of the business community.

CPA ALBERTA BOARD VOTE 2023

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## IN MEMORIAM

CPA Alberta notes with sorrow  
the passing of these Alberta CPAs

### Calgary

Bob Barclay CPA, CMA  
 Jack Beaton CPA, CMA  
 Edward Bellows CPA, CMA  
 Sandy Bennie CPA, CA  
 Norman Boleychuk CPA, CA  
 Walter Brock CPA, CA  
 Christine Burt CPA, CGA  
 Darol Clute CPA, CMA  
 Bill Davis FCPA, FCA  
 Douglas Deakin CPA, CA  
 Ernest Drew CPA, CA  
 Ronald Hanson CPA, CA  
 Owen Hay CPA, CA  
 Donald Jones CPA, CA  
 Karl Kazmaier CPA, CA  
 Karl Leitl CPA, CA  
 Harry Lindholm CPA, CMA  
 Alberta Maiani CPA, CA  
 Ray Matthews CPA, CA  
 James McCallum CPA, CA  
 Bruce McVean CPA, CA  
 Edward Melin CPA, CA  
 Cameron Rees CPA, CA  
 Ronald Scott CPA, CA  
 Vicky Singh CPA, CGA  
 Harlan Sundal CPA, CA • CIRP  
 Alexander Valestuk CPA, CA  
 Don Webster FCPA, FCA

Ed Whitaker CPA, CA  
 Shirley Wilds CPA, CMA

### Canmore

Patrick Collison CPA, CA

### Cranbrook, BC

Wayne Ackerman CPA, CA  
 Eugene Jaster CPA, CA

### Edmonton

Harold Aronson CPA, CGA  
 Earl Barby CPA, CMA  
 Barry Joe CPA, CGA  
 Hugh McDonald CPA, CMA  
 Maurice Mercier CPA, CMA  
 Paula Nahayowski CPA, CGA  
 Guy Ng CPA, CGA  
 Melissa Tirrell CPA, CA  
 Ronald Wolch CPA, CA

### Englewood, Colorado, USA

Donald Oberfeld CPA, CA

### Grande Prairie

Adam Loeffelmann CPA, CGA

### High River

Thomas Sefcik CPA, CMA

### Invermere, BC

Joe Newhouse CPA, CA

### Kamloops, BC

Morley Aboussafy CPA, CA

### Lacombe

Roger Badick CPA, CMA

### Leduc

Gregory Kramchynski CPA, CA

### Lethbridge

Barb Geiger CPA, CGA  
 Toni Nelson CPA, CA

### Montreal, QC

Clarence Blatt CPA, CA

### North Vancouver, BC

Rhys Eyton FCPA, FCA

### Okotoks

Roma Brahmacharie CPA, CMA

### Olds

Donald Archer CPA, CA

### Park City, Utah, USA

Paul Batter CPA, CA

### Penticton, BC

Jim Johnson CPA, CGA

### Pincher Creek

John Bernard CPA, CA

### Port Coquitlam, BC

George Sommerville CPA, CA

### Sherwood Park

Lyle Holmes CPA, CGA  
 Kenneth Jackson CPA, CA

### Sidney, BC

Peter Yearwood CPA, CGA

### St. Albert

Kyle Roguski CPA

### Surrey, BC

Brian Teed CPA, CGA

### Thornhill, ON

Leslie Nochomovitz CPA, CA

### Tofield

Paul Collins CPA, CMA

### Toronto, ON

Paul Palmer FCPA, FCA

### Vernon, BC

Larry Thachuk CPA, CMA

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Highlighting one of the resources CPA Alberta offers to help you in your professional journey.

# CPA ALBERTA CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

## Tailored training solutions for your organization

The accounting industry is dynamic and ever evolving, characterized by frequent regulatory changes, technological advancements, and emerging trends. To stay ahead in this competitive landscape, CPAs must continuously upgrade their skills and knowledge.

CPA Alberta's Customized Training Program caters to your organization's unique needs, empowering CPAs to stay ahead. With numerous benefits, a competitive edge, and enhanced expertise, investing in our program paves the way for career excellence.

**Discover the unique advantages of CPA Alberta's Customized Training Program:**

### Flexible programs delivered in a flexible manner

Unlike generic programs, customized training focuses on your organization's goals. Deepen tax regulation knowledge, gain expertise in forensic accounting, or explore international accounting standards, to name just a few examples—all through a tailored training program aligned with your specific interests.

Customized training provides scheduling and delivery flexibility. Choose in-person or virtual sessions or a combination while balancing your professional and educational pursuits with a program tailored to your preferences and availability.


### Leverage existing skills, knowledge, and experience

Customized training respects employees' existing knowledge and experience. It builds upon their foundation, focusing on expanding expertise without revisiting concepts employees are already proficient in. This efficient approach optimizes time and resources, maximizing the value of the training experience.

### Personalized attention and support

Dedicated instructors who specialize in accounting provide personalized guidance tailored to your needs. One-on-one interactions will deepen understanding of complex topics, encourage active participation, and facilitate immediate clarification.

### Valuable hands-on experience

With practical, real-world scenarios and case studies, customized training bridges theory and practice, equipping you with role-specific problem-solving and decision-making skills. Directly benefit your organization and clients while enhancing your value as a CPA. 



**Invest in your team by unlocking their full potential with CPA Alberta's Customized Training Program. We've got your back every step of the way.**

**[cpaalberta.ca/Customized-Training](https://cpaalberta.ca/Customized-Training)**



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