

2021 CPA Manitoba

*Member Recognition  
Spotlight*

# Congratulations!



Congratulations to the three Fellow CPAs (FCPAs), four Early Achievement Award and three Distinguished Service Award recipients named in 2021. A special acknowledgment to Carol Bellringer, FCPA, FCA who received a Lifetime Achievement Award for the incredible impact made through her career in public service and for her dedication to the community.

The recipients are pillars of our business community in Manitoba, dedicating their time and energy to their organizations, the profession and to many charitable and non-profit groups. As CPAs, they are creating waves of impact by using their knowledge, experience and insight to provide guidance in many environments.

I want to extend my gratitude to all members who dedicate their time to volunteerism. You represent the profession in such a meaningful way and make a difference in our province.

The Member Recognition Program exists so that we can put the exceptional contributions of our members in the spotlight and showcase the great work we do as CPAs. By taking the time to nominate someone, you play an important role not only in the life of a future award recipient, but also in encouraging others to make a positive difference. I encourage you to nominate a member whose contributions should be recognized.

Congratulations to all,

Geeta Tucker, FCPA, FCMA  
President & CEO of CPA Manitoba

# Lifetime Achievement Award

The CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed to a CPA who has brought honour to the profession by sustained distinction in service to the profession, career or community.

# CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

## Carol Bellringer, FCPA, FCA

You don't have to talk to Carol Bellringer for long to understand the core beliefs that are woven into the fabric of who she is: a commitment to lifelong learning, a steadfast belief in philanthropy, and a passion for professional excellence and public service.

What's interesting about Carol's story is that she never imagined she would pursue a career in accounting or finance.

"When it came to my occupation and future goals, I didn't actually know what I wanted to do," she said. "My uncle in England, who wore the designation with pride, suggested that I give the chartered accountancy profession a look while I reviewed my options."

Four decades later, Carol has left an enduring mark on the profession and in her community.

Carol is now the President & CEO of the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF), which is dedicated to advancing public sector performance audit, oversight, and accountability in Canada and internationally.

"As a tenacious proponent of progress, I have the privilege of closing out my career by taking the skills and experience I have accumulated over the years and applying them at the Foundation," noted Carol, who holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Concordia University and an MBA from the Warsaw School of Economics, L'Université du Québec à Montréal.

"Our efforts are building bridges that will change the landscape of public sector performance audit, oversight, and accountability, and will help current and future generations advance the profession."

Combining her strengths in a way that's second to none, Carol brings a wealth of skill and knowledge in conducting financial statement audits, and performance audits and investigations, that's elevating the position of the Foundation as a thought leader and center of expertise.

In her current role, Carol's responsibilities include implementing the Foundation's strategic plan, establishing performance targets, management of the CAAF team, and overall financial management of the organization.



# CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

“Working alongside the CAAF team, I’m focused on driving the organization forward, so we can strengthen our impact and value-add within the public sector,” she added. “This means having an understanding of financial impacts, internal and external influences, being able to evaluate circumstances to drive positive outcomes and guide the organization on the best path to success.”

For the astute professional accountant, auditing in the public sector isn’t just about financial statements, it’s also about performance and holding organizations accountable to how well programs are being delivered. “Governments need more than just the numbers; they need to understand what the numbers mean. It’s a very meaningful objective to auditing and is an approach the Foundation was set up to promote.”

Known for her thoughtful leadership and deep-rooted zest for public service, Carol is a committed and visionary leader who has worked tirelessly to advocate for innovative approaches that can revolutionize and advance the field.

“Now more than ever, there is a profound opportunity to build that bridge between the public and private sector on ESG reporting,” Carol explained. “Organizations across the nation will need to perform ESG audits, so there is no better time to talk about it than now.”

“It’s an interesting shift from the former auditor of Canada who started CAAF 40 years ago and puts us in a position where we as CPA’s can be a voice at the table when it comes to effective and transparent ESG reporting.”

Although Carol may be best-known these days for her role with CAAF, her entire career stands on its own merits. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2020, Carol held the prestigious position of Auditor General for the provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba. During her terms as Auditor General, she helped issue hundreds of audits on everything from ethical practices and information technology controls to climate change, compliance and enforcement in the mining sector, and even the management of grizzly bears.

She also held several management positions with KPMG in Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg, the City of Winnipeg (City Auditor), and at the University of Manitoba (Director of Private Funding).

Recognizing the need for greater transparency, Carol contributed to the independent standard setting process of public sector accountability and the credibility of the capital markets and is also a sought-after speaker on matters of transparency, accountability, and financial management.

While Carol’s professional accolades are impressive, it’s her volunteer work that truly exemplifies what it means to give back and give forward.

A community leader with a lengthy history of service and accomplishments, Carol has served on several boards in the public and private sectors, including Auditing and Assurance Standards Oversight Council (ASSOC), Manitoba Hydro, CCAF-FCVI Inc., United Way, CancerCare Manitoba, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, where she received the “Golden Baton” award for her outstanding community leadership.

# CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

Noteworthy in Carol's volunteer efforts was her extensive leadership involvement with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), where she represented Canada on a global stage for the accounting profession.

"I was touched, humbled, and honoured to have been nominated by CPA Canada to join IFAC. Even though we all spoke the same language (we're all accountants), it taught me about different cultures and how to communicate on a different level," she said with an enthusiastic smile.

From meeting the Pope at the World Congress of Accountants to representing IFAC on an anti-corruption task force that advised the G20 and brought about new federal and provincial rules around anti-money laundering, Carol chalks it up to being "an experience of a lifetime". One could say Carol's career has been an exercise in saying yes when offered an opportunity, but it is the integrity and discipline in which she has carried out each task, that has made her an inspiration to many.

"It's about taking the leap," she added. "Being a CPA has afforded me so many opportunities; it has provided a phenomenal backdrop where I could expand my career and my world. The connections made have left me with not only wonderful memories, but learning opportunities and, most importantly, a way to help the next generation of CPAs explore all that the profession has to offer."

Throughout her career, Carol has displayed the intellect and drive that are fundamental to advancing the profession, but admirably, she attributes her success all to teamwork.

"This wasn't a one-woman show," explained the travel enthusiast and avid golfer. "It was teamwork. It was a shared willingness to help, teach, and bring others along on the journey. That is what I have loved most about what I do."

Carol serves as an example of the profound impact CPAs can make on their community, the profession and their colleagues, and while her achievements have been truly outstanding, she is most proud of her three incredible children and seeing them become thriving adults.

# **Fellow (FCPA) Chartered Professional Accountant**

The title of Fellow CPA formally recognizes those members who have rendered exceptional services to the profession and whose achievements in their careers or the community have earned them distinction and brought honour to the profession.

# Fellow CPA (FCPA)

## Todd Birkhan, FCPA, FCA

Since earning his designation in 1996, Todd has continued to share his expertise and add value to organizations and those around him. His passion for leadership, people and pursuit of excellence was incubated, developed, and honed over his 20-year professional career. Todd has grown his distinguished skillset as an Engagement Partner at BDO Canada LLP where he works small to medium sized businesses and various public sector entities in areas of taxation, business consulting, business plan preparation, projections, and systems analysis.

Outside of his career achievements, Todd has brought his drive and commitment to a variety of noteworthy organizations. His deep-rooted dedication to help advance the profession and ongoing commitment to excellence earned him the Early Achievement Award in 2006 from the Institute of Chartered Accountants Manitoba. In 2016, Todd was awarded the C.F. Fleming Young Leader Award by BDO for his high-level of leadership, strong performance, and for embracing innovation to deliver exceptional service to clients.

Not only is Todd recognized for his professional and technical expertise in financial matters, he has also been an engaged volunteer in several not-for-profit and community organizations. Noteworthy in Todd's volunteer efforts is his extensive leadership involvement with the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, where he has served in several executive positions, including President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. His efforts helped bring lasting benefits to the community of Brandon. With his leadership, Todd built a framework for policy development, looked at the process and location for future development in the City of Brandon, and worked with the City to become more focused on its economic development. For his contributions, among other accolades, Todd was awarded the provincial award for outstanding service to a board as one of two candidates chosen in Manitoba each year.

While Todd is well versed at bringing levity and well-needed laughter to those around him, he is an absolute proponent of embracing and respecting the role his profession plays in society and the responsibility the designation imparts on its members.



# Fellow CPA (FCPA)

## Manisha Pandya, FCPA, FCA

With nearly three decades of experience, Manisha has shown an unwavering commitment to her profession by bringing value to the table to help businesses succeed. Furthermore, she has added to the competencies of colleagues and younger professionals in the accounting community. Manisha's success first began as a Chartered Accountant at Kendall & Wall Chartered Accountants, which later developed into a partnership, resulting in Kendall & Pandya Chartered Professional Accountants. With this career move, she became the first female partner of any northern Manitoba accounting firm. Today, Manisha is a Principal of Baker Tilly HMA LLP, following the acquisition of the firm earlier this year.

Throughout her career, Manisha's devotion to improving financial literacy has been profound, fueling her decision to generously give her time and skills to serve numerous organizations and individuals through financial literacy sessions and training seminars. As a prominent advocate for her profession, Manisha was invited to be CPA Manitoba's Regional Ambassador for the Northern Region in 2019, where she seized the opportunity to showcase the North to the members of CPA Manitoba.

It is in her extensive community volunteer roles where Manisha also truly shines. Her long list of accomplishments includes sitting on the Executive Committee for the Thompson Economic Development Corporation, Manitoba Public Insurance, Manitoba Crown Corporations Council, Premier's Economic Advisory Council, Rotary Club of Thompson, and United Way of Thompson. As President and Treasurer for United Way of Thompson, Manisha was instrumental in reviving the organization which had become dormant over the years – a testament to her leadership and professional strengths. It was her dedication and perseverance that garnered the attention of the National organization. Notably, in 1993, Manisha was invited to sit on the National Board of United Way of Canada, making her the youngest representative on the Board.

Manisha's passion for her profession and ensuring her contributions make a significant difference have earned her several accolades, including the Paul Harris Fellowship (2010), National Flare Magazine Volunteer Award. Additionally, in 2001 she was named the first recipient of the Community Service Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Manitoba for her contributions in the volunteer sector. It is Manisha's leadership, determination, and professionalism in these roles that have set her apart in her career.



# Fellow CPA (FCPA)

## David Wardrop, FCPA, FCMA

Known for his thoughtful leadership and steadfast ability to provide exceptional service, Dave's reputation with the City of Winnipeg is well-deserved. As Chief Transportation and Utilities Officer, Dave has been responsible for the largest departments in the City of Winnipeg, including Water and Waste, Public Works, and Transit, in addition to smaller areas such as the Winnipeg Parking Authority. Over his distinguished 35-year professional career with the City, Dave championed the successful Southwest Rapid Transit Corridor project, was instrumental in advancing innovative practices within the Transit department, and made significant contributions towards the creation of the City of Winnipeg's Flood Control Manual.

Perhaps David's biggest legacy is the impact he has had on fellow colleagues and other CPAs. Dave is and has always been passionate about developing future generations of accounting professionals. To that end, he volunteered as part of CMA Manitoba's Distinguished Speaker series to raise the awareness and profile of the profession among members, candidates, and students, and has acted as a presenter at numerous recruitment events designed to attract the next generation of CPAs.

Dave has a strong sense of community and has generously given his time and skills to serve numerous organizations through key leadership positions, which include the United Way of Winnipeg, City of Winnipeg's Employee Charitable Fund Leadership Committee, Winnipeg Civic Employees' Pension Plan, Canadian Urban Transit Association, among others. As a leading member of these committees and boards, Dave has provided his oversight and strategic vision to add value to every project, which earned him several accolades, including the Canadian Council of the Blind's Inclusion Award and the University of Manitoba's MBA Associates and E.B. Kernaghan Awards.



Throughout his career, Dave has displayed the knowledge, commitment, and integrity that are fundamental to advancing the reputation of professionals within the industry, and it is his ability to successfully balance his technical mindset with a business and strategy focus that has helped him bring people and organizations together to achieve common goals.

# Early Achievement Award

The CPA Manitoba Early Achievement Award is bestowed to members who demonstrate an ongoing commitment and excellence in their professional, community or other volunteer involvement and career achievement within the first ten years of membership.

# Early Achievement Award

## Sarah Cook, CPA, CA

Sarah's drive and broad business focus—along with her commitment to mentorship, diversity, and leadership development— make her a shining example of a CPA. After obtaining her designation while at BDO Canada LLP in 2011, Sarah joined the Indigenous Management Group Inc. as Co-Manager, and later, re-joined BDO as Audit Manager. In 2016, she was recruited to join the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Inc. (MFNERC) as the Assistant Director of Finance, where she developed program budgets and created workplans for government funding to support First Nations communities.

A natural leader with a remarkable ability to notice someone's unique strengths, Sarah demonstrates integrity, enthusiasm, and dedication in everything she does. Her passion for the profession was demonstrated by her commitment to future generations through the CPA Martin Mentorship Program for Indigenous High School Students.

An active volunteer in her community, Sarah has held several key leadership roles with many not-for-profit organizations. Through her efforts with the CRA Volunteer Program, Sarah established and championed a volunteer tax preparation service in Grand Rapids to benefit the community. Her commitment to community is further exemplified by her five-year tenure with United Way Winnipeg as a member of the Board of Trustees and her representation on United Way Winnipeg's Council for Indigenous Relations (CIR). During her leadership, CIR developed a three-year strategic plan, which included strategies for meaningful Indigenous collaboration.



# Early Achievement Award

## Suzanne Holatko, CPA, CA

A well-regarded and respected member of her community and profession, Suzanne is recognized for her growth-focused mindset and thoughtful leadership. This is evidenced by her mentorship of staff at Deloitte LLP, her client service leadership, and various governance and leadership roles within Deloitte and the community. Working her way up from a summer student, to Manager, Senior Manager, and now Partner at Deloitte, Suzanne presents the profession in a vibrant, agile way while demonstrating the impact each CPA can have for their clients, organizations, and the community.

Not only is Suzanne recognized for her professional expertise in audit, accounting, and tax, but she has also been a dynamic member of the community serving as a volunteer with several organizations. Noteworthy in Suzanne's volunteer efforts is her involvement with the Manitoba Music Board where she currently serves as Treasurer.

Over the past nine years, Suzanne has made her greatest impact as a mentor, dedicating her time to develop the talent within the firm by helping run internal Deloitte study groups and sessions. Through her talent and commitment, Suzanne is affecting both present and future CPAs, which will have lasting benefits to the CPA profession.



# Early Achievement Award

## Daniel Piché, CPA, CGA

Dan is known for being a change agent, driving best practices, and striving for continuous improvement. Professionally, Dan has had much success, first as Junior Accountant at Talbot & Associates Chartered Professional Accountants Inc., and quickly climbed the ranks as a Senior Accountant, then Manager, Partner and now, CEO. Throughout his decade-long career, Dan has brought tremendous growth and prosperity to the firm. He has helped pave the way for the next generation of CPAs, which gives rise to his gift for coaching and mentoring, where he encourages and challenges others to be the best they can be.

While his career accolades are impressive, what speaks loudest about Dan's character is how he contributes to the broader community. He is a profound, invested volunteer and has been involved in many community initiatives, such as his efforts with Adopt-A-Highway Program, Salvation Army's soup kitchen, and Société St-Jean-Baptiste, where he served as a board member, and then President and Treasurer for several years.

In addition to his community service, Dan has had a tremendous impact on the CPA profession as a mentor, educator, and speaker. From teaching the US tax module of the Talbot & Associates' tax course to presenting at industry events, including the US tax basics for World Trade Center Winnipeg, Dan's remarkable commitment and service to his community and profession is a testament to his outstanding leadership.



# Early Achievement Award

## Nora Wood, CPA, CGA

Nora is a life-long learner who is committed to supporting student achievement and believes that an innovative education sector is the cornerstone of a sustainable future for all. Her exceptional reputation has led to her current role as the Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer for the Pembina Trails School Division in Winnipeg, where she is responsible for the overall leadership, strategic direction, and management of the finance and business services for the division's schools and support facilities.

Passionate about making a difference, Nora is, and always has been, an active member of her community, serving numerous organizations through several past and present executive positions, including Pembina Trails Educational Support Fund, Manitoba Association of School Business Officials Sustainable Development Committee, Low Carbon Government Sector Working Group, St. James Scholarship Foundation, among others.

An unwavering promoter and supporter of the CPA profession, Nora joined the CPA Manitoba Foundation Board, where she was appointed to the Student Support Committee, and shortly after, became the Secretary-Treasurer and Chair of the Audit Committee. She is now Chair of the board. Nora's motivation to join the board stemmed from her deep sense of respect for the profession, but was also a result of the impact of receiving the Public Sector Financial Accounting Award from CGA Manitoba upon completion of the program in 2012. Today, she continues to dedicate her efforts to ensure CPA students and candidates are afforded every opportunity for success.



# Distinguished Service Award

The CPA Manitoba Distinguished Service Award is bestowed to members who have made outstanding contributions to community and/or the profession.

# Distinguished Service Award

## G. Brock Coutts, CPA, CMA

It's not every day that an accountant and ambassador for the CPA profession decides to become a distillery owner — but that's exactly what happened to Brock, President of Patent 5 Distillery. After obtaining his designation in 1998, Brock worked with numerous prominent organizations including Oracle, CPA Canada, Protegra, SCE Lifeworks, among others, and has had a tremendous impact on the profession for over three decades. His varied career spans information technology, non-for-profit organizations, and includes owning a stone company that provided the alabaster for the ramps at the Canadian Human Rights Museum. In 2019, he started Patent 5 Distillery from the ground, growing it into a successful local business.

As a committed, passionate, and visionary leader, Brock has been an inspiration to many, which was seen firsthand during the pandemic. Brock and his company pivoted their business to produce and distribute hand sanitizer for not-for-profits and organizations free of charge. Thanks to Brock's efforts, organizations serving vulnerable communities across the province including Main Street Project, Sunshine House and the Exchange District BIZ, benefited greatly. All told, over 4,000 litres of hand sanitizer were produced and distributed over several months, creating meaningful impact in uncertain times.



# Distinguished Service Award

## Bryan Fosty, CPA, CMA

Bryan's passion for his work is unparalleled. Throughout his decade-long career, Bryan has displayed the knowledge, commitment, and integrity that are fundamental to advancing the reputation of CPAs. During his tenure with Canad Inns, Bryan held several noteworthy positions including Controller, Business Analyst, and Corporate Accountant. Now, he is the Director of Finance at CPA Manitoba.

Recognizing the social need for a stronger foundation in financial literacy, Bryan has served as a mentor to volunteers in the CPA Canada Financial Literacy Program in Manitoba. To help educate and inspire others with the program content, he has been actively involved in promoting the program to teachers and students throughout the province. He has committed his knowledge, time, and skills to making a difference to financial literacy by delivering sessions throughout the province to help communities access the tools and skills needed to become financially literate.



# Distinguished Service Award

## Tammy Oze, CPA, CMA

Generous with her time and impactful in her endeavours, Tammy has spent her career personifying the characteristics best associated with the profession. As the Federal Regulatory Officer at Manitoba Hydro, Tammy is responsible for directing strategy and advocacy in regulatory processes related to natural gas pipelines. She has also worked extensively managing environmental and stakeholder activities in support of major new hydroelectric generation and transmission projects.

Through her commitment and leadership, she has brought distinction to the profession as a volunteer, dedicating her time to the advancement of the CPA Canada Financial Literacy Program in Manitoba as a spokesperson and presenter. Tammy's impressive volunteer commitments within the profession also include serving as lead volunteer at the Indspire Conference and participating as a member and Chair of the CPA Manitoba Conference Committee, where she helped plan and shape the content, vision, and goals of the annual conference. Thanks to her financial acumen and drive for volunteerism, Tammy has made a significant impact on her community.



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