



2016 CPA Manitoba

*Member Recognition  
Spotlight*



**CPA**

CHARTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
ACCOUNTANTS  
MANITOBA

# Note from the Chair



The inaugural CPA Manitoba Member Recognition Gala took place on May 12, 2016 at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The event saw over 250 guests in attendance to celebrate the achievements of our award recipients.

As CPAs, it is so important for us to represent and promote the profession and give back to our communities. The recipients of the CPA Manitoba Member Recognition Awards are dedicated ambassadors for the profession and do excellent work for the organizations of which they are employed. In addition, the contributions of our award recipients don't stop in the workplace. The efforts of those recognized extend beyond their professional roles into the business community and through to volunteerism. As you read this Member Recognition Spotlight, you will learn about the positive impact CPAs make in a broad range of companies, sectors and industries.

On behalf of the profession, we thank each and every member who takes the time to mentor an employee, serve on a board, coach a team or volunteer for a worthy cause. Each contribution of your time, voice and expertise makes all the difference in the world and it is important that as a profession we acknowledge that.

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. I encourage you to nominate a fellow member who meets the award criteria. The time dedicated to preparing nominations is what makes all this possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Thorsten'.

Robert Thorsten, FCPA, FCMA  
Chair, CPA Manitoba

# Lifetime Achievement Award

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

# CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

## Sidney Halpern, FCPA, FCA

The 2016 recipient of the CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award, Sidney Halpern, FCPA, FCA built his career on the pillars of honesty, ethical integrity and professionalism.

“Winning this award has provided me a great degree of self and career satisfaction,” Sid says. “It means so much to have my career and volunteer achievements recognized objectively by my peers in the professional community.”

Sid, now semi-retired, was admitted to CA membership in 1958. “The designation was recognized in the business and general community as a prestigious credential with standards of excellence in accounting, auditing and business practices,” Sid explains. “I was attracted to the core values associated with the profession; integrity, honesty and credibility. It was also a doorway that allowed me to achieve personal success while taking care of my family and giving back.”

From the very beginning and throughout his career, Sid demonstrated a commitment to serving the profession, his business, family and community. He began his career articling with Sandel Peltz & Company. In 1961, he accepted a bookkeeping position with Rice Sportswear Ltd., a clothing company based in Winnipeg. He quickly grew within, the organization and held several leadership positions. By 1965, he was the Executive Vice President and played an instrumental role when the company went public in 1990. In 1995, he assumed the role of President, overseeing more than 600 employees. From marketing, sales and distribution to union negotiations and risk management, Sid’s positive mindset and desire to continuously learn about and improve upon a variety of operations allowed him to see every challenge as an opportunity. Sales and profits skyrocketed from 1.6 million to in excess of 40 million during Sid’s time with Rice Sportswear. “It was very rewarding to see results materialize after all the time, hard work and planning that was put into the business,” Sid says. “But it was not only seeing growth in



# CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

sales and profits that was satisfying. I developed so many great relationships with staff, customers, bankers and sales people – many of which are still in place today.”

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a commitment to excellence that extends beyond the recipient’s professional career. For almost 40 years, Sid has put his experience, expertise and education to use for the benefit of the community. He has assisted a variety of not-for-profits in shaping and achieving their goals. As President of The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, Sid was part of the executive team that developed and implemented The Asper Jewish Community Campus. He also assumed the role of President with The Sharon Home, a community based personal care facility that was in need of an upgrade. Sid led the planning and execution of moving the care home to a new state-of-the-art facility in south Winnipeg, which ended up serving as a catalyst for residential development in the surrounding area. “I think I was invited to take on leadership roles because I always subscribed to the idea that actions speak louder than words,” Sid shares. “I worked through obstacles and achieved my goals beyond expectations through continuous learning and collaboration while staying true to my values.”

While Sid has been a force in the business community, he has also been a tremendous advocate of the profession. “The cornerstone of my success has been inspiring at least nine others to pursue their professional accounting designation,” Sid says. “The program not only develops skills to enter into a variety of fields in private or public practice, but it is the first stepping stone to a career that allows you to create that balance between business, community and family. It has been a joy to watch my own children, nephews, grand-nephews and friends pave their own careers with great measures of success in all those areas.”

Sid credits the profession for allowing him to find a balance that has led to a happy and fulfilling life. Along with his professional success and volunteer achievements, Sid is also a father of four. “My lovely wife Esther deserves as much of the credit for my success, if not more,” Sid says. “She has been my partner in everything for 63 years and has been integral to our overall success and happiness as a whole.”

# Fellow CPA (FCPA)

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

## Angela Chambers, FCPA, FCMA

Angela Chambers, FCPA, FCMA is the President and Managing Partner at Mercer Bradley, where she works to recruit top finance and accounting talent for the Winnipeg marketplace. She received her professional accounting designation in 2002 and earned her title as a Certified Personnel Consultant in 2010.

During the time of the unification of the accounting profession, Angela was elected to serve as President and Chair of the CMA Manitoba Board in 2012. She demonstrated exceptional leadership, collaboration and direction during a time of significant change for the profession. She currently serves on the CPA Manitoba Foundation Board and was a member of CPA Manitoba's Transitional Steering Committee and the former CMA Manitoba Board.

Leadership is a continuing theme throughout Angela's career. She has been a staffing professional since 2004 and became the Practice Leader at Mercer Bradley's Winnipeg office in 2008. In 2015, she transitioned to the role of President and Managing Partner where she launched a strategic plan and infrastructure for the Canadian operations. Angela continues to build the Mercer Bradley brand as a premier specialist firm.

A commitment to serving the community is also a big part of Angela's life. She is a member of Red River College's Applied Accounting Advisory Committee, a member of Red River College's Alumni Council, President of the Manitoba Chapter of the Association of Canadian Search Employment and Staffing Services and a national board member as well as past committee member of the Habitat for Humanity Women Build Program.



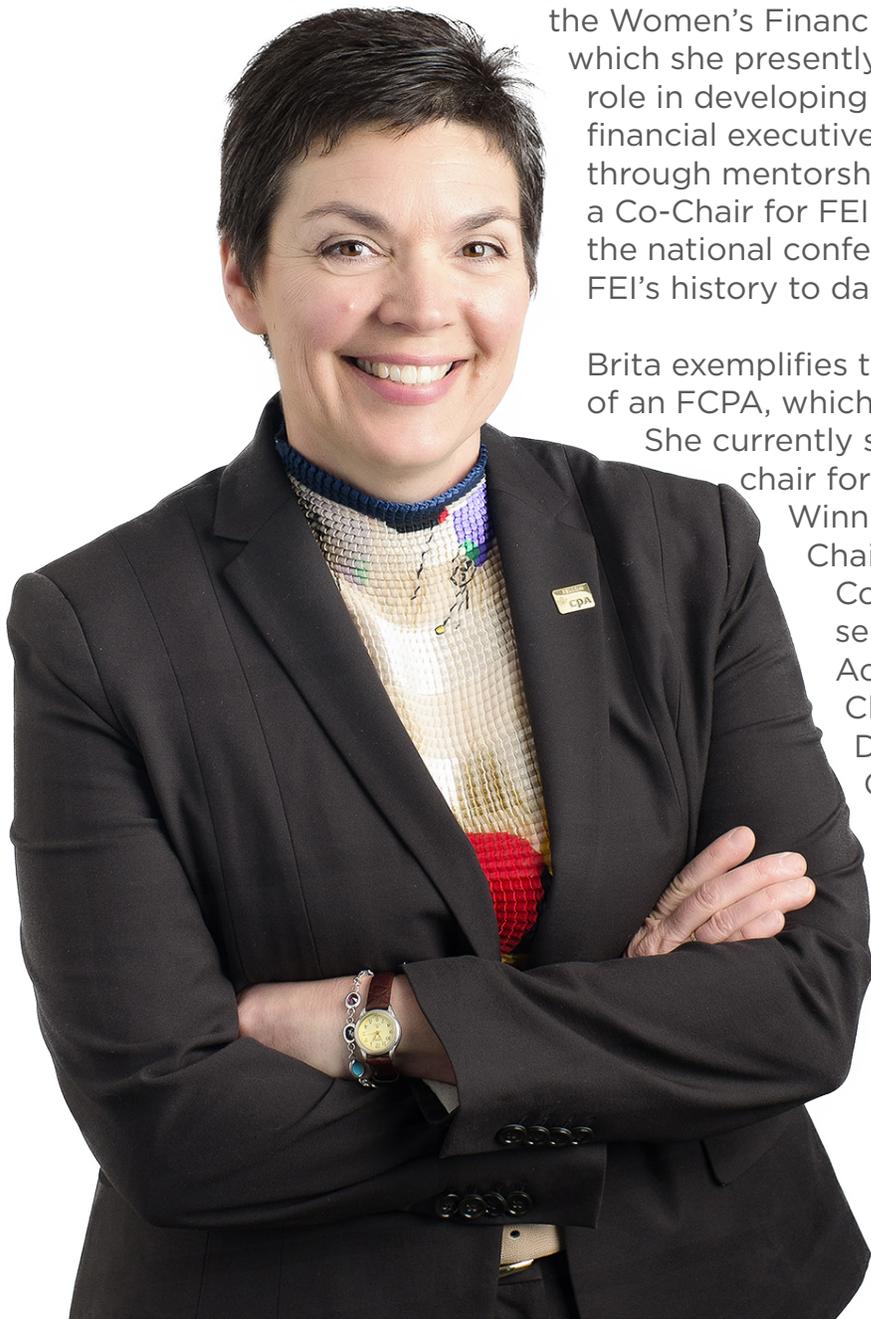
## Brita Chell, FCPA, FCA

Brita Chell, FCPA, FCA played an important role in the privatization of the Canadian Wheat Board to G3 Canada Limited, where she presently acts as Chief Financial Officer. As a professional accountant in an executive leadership role, Brita brings a finance and accounting perspective to strategy and decision making. She received her professional accounting designation in 1987 and was awarded the W.W. Shepherd Prize for fourth overall standing in that year's final exams. Brita is a model for the profession, as she takes her knowledge and experience beyond her role as a CFO and applies it to the wider business community in Manitoba.

After becoming a member of Financial Executives International Canada (FEI Canada) in 2002, Brita joined the Board of Directors of FEI Canada's Winnipeg Chapter in 2006 and served as Programming Manager and President. She was chosen by FEI Canada to develop the Women's Financial Executive Network in Winnipeg, for which she presently serves as a Co-Chair. She has a lead role in developing this network to support female senior financial executives as they progress in their career through mentorship and support. In 2015, she acted as a Co-Chair for FEI Canada's Sponsorship Committee for the national conference and attained the best results in FEI's history to date.

Brita exemplifies the strength and character required of an FCPA, which extends to community involvement.

She currently serves as a board member and Finance chair for St. Amant Inc., board member for The Winnipeg Airports Authority, and is Co-Chair of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission of Canada. Recently she served on the board of St Mary's Academy, Glendale Golf and Country Club, Bumper Crop Early Learning Development Centre and the Manitoba Children's Museum.



## Bev Davies, FCPA, FCA

Bev Davies, FCPA, FCA is the Vice President of Enterprise Risk Management at Investors Group where she manages the development and implementation of enterprise risk management for IGM Financial Services. She earned her professional accounting designation in 1984 and has demonstrated a commitment to being actively involved in the profession and business community.

In addition to focusing on financial reporting controls and processes, corporate insurance, enterprise risk management and advising and supporting IGM business leaders, Bev has embraced opportunities to help shape the business leaders of tomorrow. She oversees her office's CPA pre-approved training program that provides CPA candidates with the necessary growth and mentorship to earn the designation.

Within the profession, Bev has been involved in a variety of capacities. She served on the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Manitoba's Membership, University Recruitment and Discipline Committees. She has been involved with Financial Executives International Canada (FEI Canada) since 2005 and joined the FEI Canada Winnipeg Chapter Board in 2006. She has also been involved with FEI Canada's Governance and Risk Management Committee (GRC) since 2009 and was Chair of the GRC from 2012 to 2015. Bev joined FEI Canada's National Board in 2011 where she presently serves as Vice Chair and will soon be appointed as Chair. She is also a member of CPA Manitoba's Appeals Committee.

In the community, Bev has been involved with the MS Society of Manitoba since 2009 and is presently a board member and Chair of the Finance Committee. She previously served as a member of the Audit and Finance Committee for the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba and Treasurer of the Manitoba Host Committee of the Canada-Wide Science Fair.



## Julie Notley Guevarra, FCPA, FCMA

Julie Notley Guevarra, FCPA, FCMA is the Director of Finance at JEM Insurance Group. She earned her accounting designation in 1995 and became actively involved in the profession. In the early stages of her career, she served as an examiner for verbal board reports for CMA BC and sat on the Vancouver Chapter Executive Committee. After relocating to Manitoba, Julie joined the CMA Manitoba Board of Directors in 2009, then transitioned to the role of President and Chair in 2013. In this role, Julie represented CMA Manitoba during the unification of the accounting profession. This included serving on CPA Manitoba's Transition Steering Committee and Joint Venture Board, where she helped navigate the waters around unification and ensured that the interests of the membership were kept at the forefront. She is presently a member of the CPA Manitoba Governance Committee.

Julie was a Senior Manager with BDO Canada before accepting the position of Partner and CFO at MIG Insurance Group. During her time with the company, MIG Insurance was named one of Manitoba's Top Employers (2010-11), one of Manitoba's Fastest Growing Companies (2010) and was also recognized by the Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce as the Best Midsized Company (2011).

JEM Insurance was founded by Julie and her husband, Emerito, almost 10 years ago and they have grown it to be a successful business with three locations. Both she and her husband are passionate about giving back and serving their community.

Julie has served as Treasurer and Interpretation Chair for the Manitoba Recreational Trail Association and as a board member for the Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce. She has been Treasurer for the Lester Beach Cottage Association since 2009 and played an integral role in developing a 75 thousand dollar recreational space for area residents through grants and donations.



## Mark Jones, FCPA, FCGA

Mark Jones, FCPA, FCGA earned his professional accounting designation in 2000 and aspired to open his own public accounting firm after leaving the role of General Manager and Regional Director of Video One. In an effort to gain experience in the field of public practice, he joined the firm Tanis Olafson, Certified General Accountant as a staff accountant in 2005. They both quickly realized there was a good fit in philosophies, work ethic and skills and in January of 2008, they partnered to form what is now Olafson & Jones, Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.

Believing in the importance of giving back to the profession, Mark served in numerous capacities on the CGA Manitoba Board. His involvement extended to serving as a member and then Chair of the Public Practice Committee, as well as a member of the Public Practice Task Force. Mark was also actively involved in the unification of the accounting profession which included appearing before the Legislative Standing Committee on behalf of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce in support of the CPA Manitoba Act. Mark presently serves on the CPA Manitoba Board and is a member of the Tax Committee and Chair of the Audit Committee. He can regularly be heard representing CPA Manitoba in the media providing commentary on tax and accounting related news stories. He is a regular contributor on Bold Radio, a Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce broadcast on CJOB, as well as on CTV Morning Live. Mark is currently the Chair of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Economic Competitiveness Leadership Council and has served on the BOLD Winnipeg Caucus, which helped shape the Winnipeg Chamber's civic platform on finance. In 2014, he was awarded BOLD Leader of the Year.

Mark is presently the Treasurer for the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame and served as President for Whyte Ridge Community Centre from 2007 until 2012.



## Judy Murphy, FCPA, FCA

Judy Murphy, FCPA, FCA earned her professional accounting designation in 1994 after working for 15 years as a professional pianist. A visionary leader with a track record of exceeding expectations, Judy embraced the opportunity to use her designation to fuse her love of arts and culture with her desire to make a difference in Winnipeg's art and business community.

In the arts community, Judy has held leadership positions at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Folklorama and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. In each of these roles, she developed strong relationships with internal and community stakeholders, as well as with all levels of government. Her influence has left a lasting impact on these organizations, repositioning them to achieve further success.

In 2011, Judy began her role as President and CEO of Safety Services Manitoba (SSM) and has already made significant improvements to the organization's bottom line. To date she has increased revenue by 34%, created a new strategic plan and improved SSM's image and brand. In every organization she has served, colleagues note that she demonstrates collaboration, leadership, positivity and a deep respect for the community and profession in everything that she does.

Throughout her career, Judy has developed and maintained strong business and community relationships. She was appointed as the Chair of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Board in 2010 and led the review of their corporate governance practices. She is a Certified Executive Coach and currently sits on both the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce and the Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation Boards.



# Fellow CPA (FCPA)

## Don Solman, FCPA, FCA

Don Solman, FCPA, FCA is the Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer of James Richardson & Sons Limited (JRSL). He earned his professional accounting designation in 1985 and has a career with Richardson International that spans over 20 years. He has consistently provided vision and leadership to grow the company significantly in size, scope and financial results.

Under Don's leadership, Richardson International's finance division has grown to include more than 65 CPA members, candidates and students. Don was instrumental in working with CPA Manitoba to offer the pre-approved program to allow CPA candidates to meet the practical work experience requirements while working at Richardson International.

In addition to his current role at JRSL, Don is also the Chair of the JRSL Pension Trust Fund and serves on the boards of JRSL's subsidiary companies. These include Richardson International Limited, Richardson Financial Group, Lombard Realty Limited and Tundra Oil and Gas Limited.

Don continues to be a mentor and uses his knowledge and experience as a CPA to give back to the community. He has been a member of the University of Manitoba Audit and Risk Committee since 2009 where he has provided significant insight, expertise and time. He has been a keynote speaker at the Financial Executives International annual conference. Don serves on the Major Donor Cabinet of the United Way of Winnipeg, the Financial Advisory Board for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg, the Board of Directors of Holy Family Home and is a member of the Associates of the Asper School of Business.



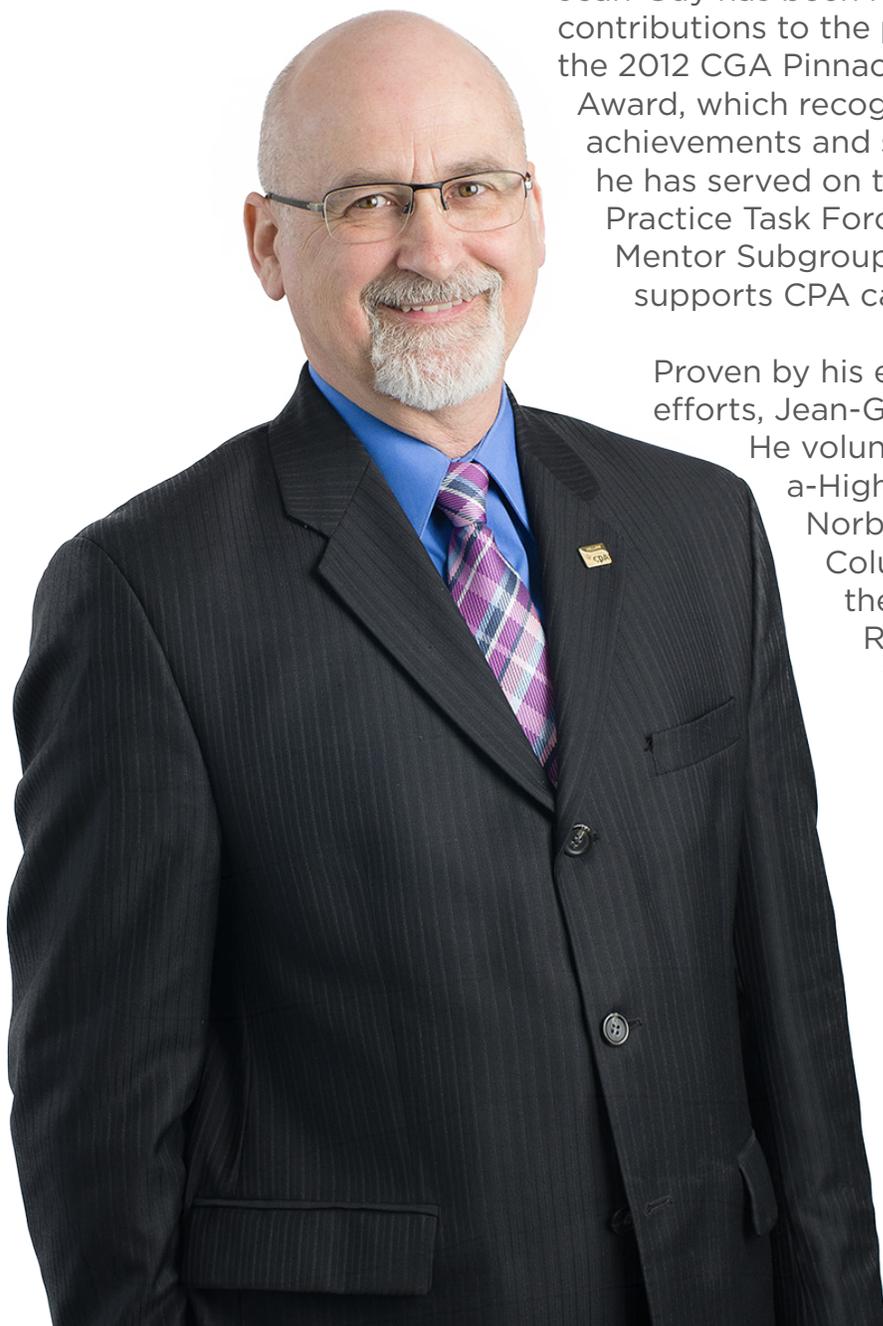
## Jean-Guy Talbot, FCPA, FCGA

Jean-Guy Talbot, FCPA, FCGA is the Founder and CEO of Talbot & Associates Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. He worked in public practice for other accounting firms in Winnipeg for several years prior to starting his own practice in his home on a part-time basis. It became a full-time venture in 1991.

Talbot & Associates grew from a one-man operation to boast a staff of over 50 with offices in Ashern, Steinbach, Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes and two locations in Winnipeg. In 2014, Jean-Guy founded RêveNew Practice Management (RPM), a consulting firm for accounting practices across Canada. That same year, Talbot & Associates was the recipient of the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Small Business Award.

Jean-Guy has been recognized by peers for his contributions to the profession. He was the recipient of the 2012 CGA Pinnacle Award and the 2013 CGA Meritorious Award, which recognized his outstanding career achievements and service to the profession. Since 2009, he has served on the CGA Manitoba Board, the Public Practice Task Force, the Public Practice Work Group and Mentor Subgroup. Jean-Guy also serves as a mentor and supports CPA candidates.

Proven by his extensive list of community volunteer efforts, Jean-Guy is passionate about helping people. He volunteers with Winnipeg Harvest, Adopt-a-Highway, St. Norbert Green Team, St. Norbert Winter Clean Up, and the Knights of Columbus. He has served as Treasurer for the St. Norbert Biz, participated in the Run for the Cure and has built homes with Habitat for Humanity.



## Howard Wirch, FCPA, FCGA

Howard Wirch, FCPA, FCGA is the Managing Partner at Accent Chartered Professional Accountants. He began his career in 1997 as an Accounting Technician with Allard and Yakubchak and earned his professional accounting designation in 2002. He joined Allard, Yakubchak and Letain as a Partner in 2006. He has been in his current role with Accent Chartered Professional Accountants since 2015.

Howard has been an enthusiastic advocate for the profession, dedicating his time to mentoring CPA candidates and helping them create a path to achieve their career goals. He has served on the CGA Manitoba Board and the CGA Dauphin Chapter Board, where he helped encourage member participation and engagement. He has served on the CGA Professional Standards and Public Practice Task Forces and was a member of the CPA Transitional Steering Committee.

In the community, Howard has served as a member, Treasurer and President with the Dauphin Rotary Club, where he assisted in coordinating the exchange student program. He has also been a program advisor, volunteer and participant with MS Bike Tour Riding Mountain Challenge, an instructor at Dauphin's Friendship Centre and volunteer with the Dauphin Bible Camp. He is a prominent member of the community in Dauphin and has a well-respected reputation that embodies integrity, leadership, collaboration and good humor.



# 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

## Hans Andersen, CPA, CA

Hans Andersen, CPA, CA was admitted to membership in 2005 and has been a Partner with the PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) Winnipeg office since 2014. In this role, he provides services to start-ups and medium and large companies across a variety of industries. He has worked with some of the firm's largest private clients and is PwC Canada's Agribusiness Leader responsible for overseeing a team of specialists across the country. He is highly regarded by his colleagues as a dedicated advocate for the profession and demonstrates leadership through his mentorship initiatives and community involvement.

Hans is one of the leaders of PwC's on-campus recruitment which includes a variety of outreach activities to engage and encourage students at the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg to pursue the CPA designation.

In the community, Hans is an active board member of the Winnipeg Art Gallery and Variety, the Children's Charity of Manitoba. He also served on the CICA National Competency Map Committee from 2010 to 2014.



# Early Achievement Award

## Nicole Barry, CPA, CGA

Nicole Barry, CPA, CGA was admitted to membership in 2010 and is the Founder and President of PEG Beer Company. Early on, Nicole knew she wanted to become her own boss. That dream became a reality when she co-founded Half Pints Brewing in 2006. She invested in a business education and a professional accounting designation while she was pursuing her career ambitions of entrepreneurship. When Nicole left Half Pints, the company had gone from a two-person operation to an award-winning, internationally recognized company with 18 employees.

Nicole was set on opening her own brew pub after she departed from Half Pints. To help achieve this goal, she was involved in changing legislation to allow a brew pub to run more simply and efficiently. PEG Beer Company not only boasts a delicious menu, but it also serves a wide variety of craft brews on tap, many of which are brewed here in Manitoba.

In the profession, Nicole serves on the CPA Manitoba Conference Committee and has worked as a CPA Professional Practice Series Facilitator. She has graced the front cover of *CPA Magazine*, *CGA Magazine* and was featured in *MacLeans* and *Canadian Business*.



# Early Achievement Award

## Bradley Keefe, CPA, CA

Bradley Keefe, CPA, CA was admitted to membership in 2006. He started working at the Office of the Auditor General as a summer student in 2002 and in 2004, they hired him full-time as an Auditor while he was pursuing his professional accounting designation. He soon advanced to Senior Auditor and then later to Manager, taking on responsibility for coordinating larger and more complex audits while managing the staff assigned to his team. He was promoted to Principal on the audit of the Summary Financial Statements of the Province of Manitoba and is one of the youngest Principals to lead this audit, which deals with expenses of over 15 billion dollars. Interacting with some of the most senior levels of management in Manitoba's Provincial Government, he leads over 20 staff to complete this audit over the summer months.

Bradley is also a member of OAG's Professional Development Committee and Student Recruitment and Development Committee. He provides mentorship to CPA candidates, dedicating lunch hours and evenings to offer exam guidance and study plans. He is also a contractor with the CPA Western School of Business and has taken on a variety of roles such as course instructor, module author, online facilitator and curriculum development team member.

Bradley is also an enthusiastic athlete and runner. He served as the Road Runner Representative for Athletics Manitoba, trained fellow athletes, was the top ranked marathon runner in Manitoba in 2015 and participates annually in the Manitoba Marathon, where he has claimed second place in 2014 and 2015.



# Meritorious Service Award

The CPA Manitoba Meritorious Service Award is bestowed to members, students, candidates or others who have served CPA Manitoba in a meritorious fashion.

# Meritorious Service Award

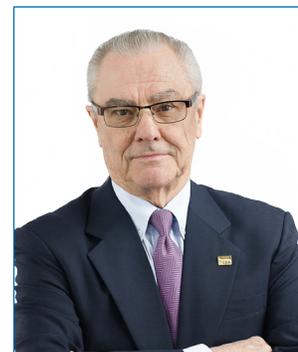
This year, the Meritorious Service Award recognized a group of six individuals who made significant contributions leading up to the proclamation of *The Chartered Professional Accountants Act of Manitoba*. These six individuals comprised the CPA Manitoba Regulatory Working Group. They are:



**Chris Dumontier, CPA, CMA**



**Bruce Granke, FCPA, FCMA**



**Len Hampson, FCPA, FCMA**



**Carleen MacKay, FCPA, FCMA**



**Ian Seymour, FCPA, FCA**



**Shirley Sommer, CPA, CA**

The Regulatory Working Group was formed to assist with the creation of CPA Manitoba from a legislative and regulatory perspective. They were responsible for reviewing and commenting on draft legislation. While the Regulatory Working Group developed a preliminary draft of the new CPA Act, the Government of the day decided to draft its own legislation. Between January 2014 and the introduction of the legislation in early December 2014, there would have been approximately a dozen iterations of the Bill, many of which were reviewed by the Working Group.

The Regulatory Working Group was also responsible for developing draft bylaws for CPA Manitoba. Once again, they reviewed several iterations of the bylaws before they were finalized. Approval of the bylaws was critical since the Government was not prepared to proclaim the legislation effective until the bylaws were passed by the Transitional Board.

The work done by all members spanned the course of three years. Thanks to their efforts, legislation was made possible.

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