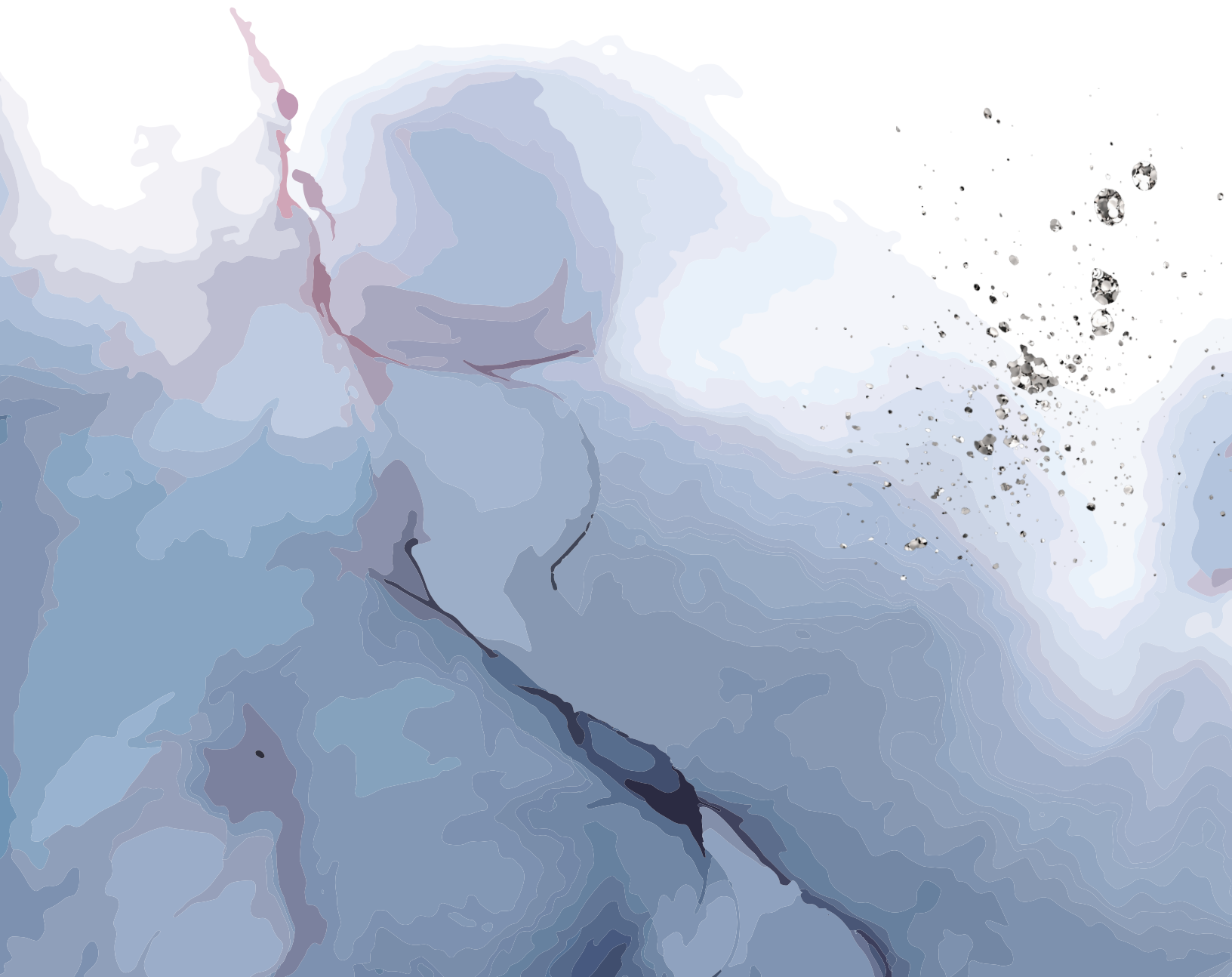


2024 CPA Manitoba

MEMBER RECOGNITION SPOTLIGHT





Message from CPA Manitoba's President & CEO

On behalf of CPA Manitoba, congratulations to the fifteen members who are being celebrated through the Member Recognition Program in 2024. A special acknowledgment to Richard Olfert, FCPA, FCA who received the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his significant impact on his workplace, the profession and the community.

This year's recipients include public servants, industry professionals, and members in public practice who embody what it means to be a CPA. On their unique career journeys, they are representing our profession with integrity and prestige. Beyond that, they serve numerous charitable and non-profit organizations, sharing their wealth of knowledge and expertise.

The positive impact that is made in all corners of our province by our members who dedicate their time and energy to volunteerism is deserving of applause. Thank you to our members who serve our community organizations.

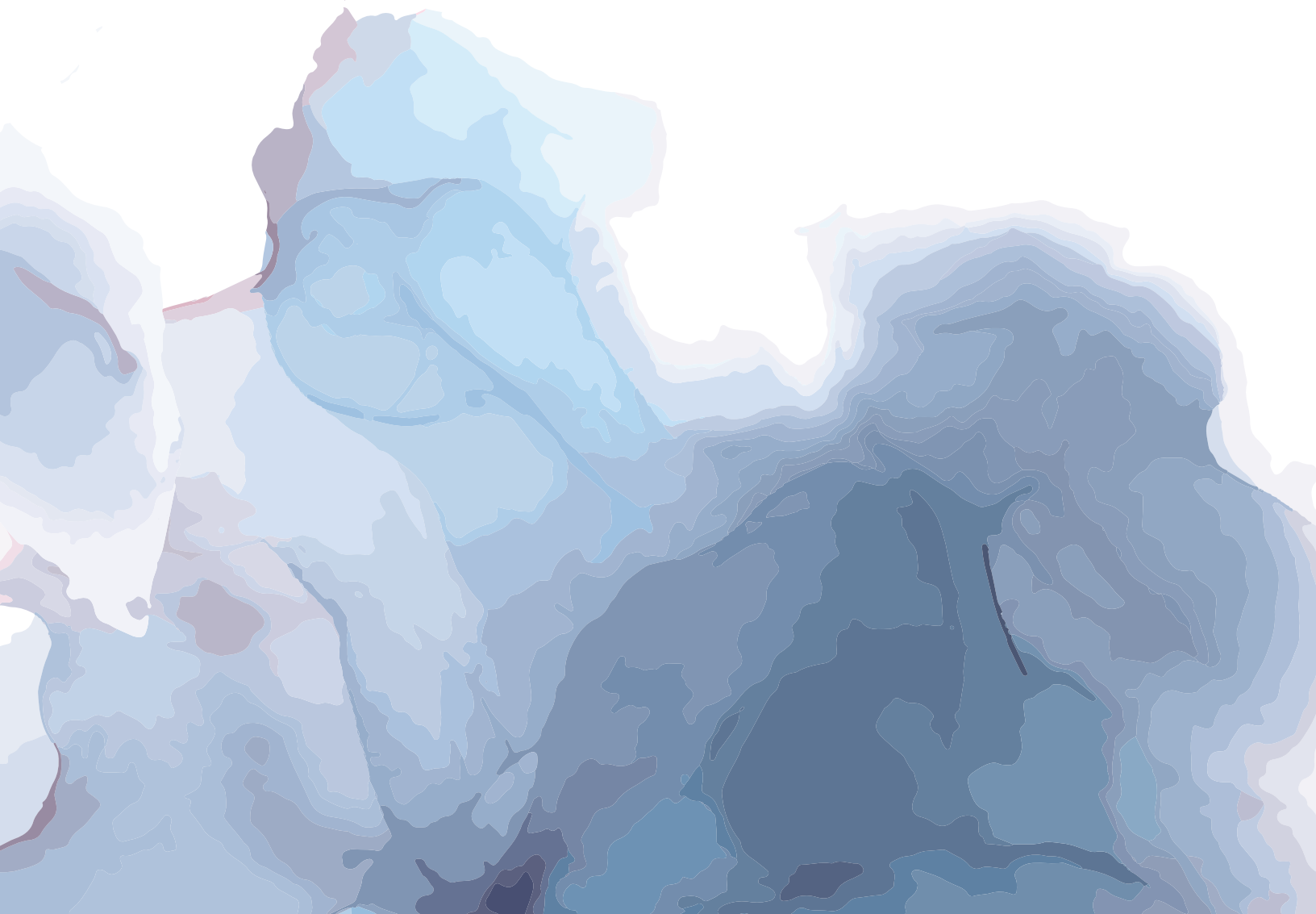
The Member Recognition Program exists so that we can put the exceptional contributions of our members in the spotlight and showcase the great work we do as CPAs. By taking the time to nominate someone, you play an important role not only in the life of a future award recipient, but also in encouraging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

Richard Olfert, FCPA, FCA

Richard Olfert's story is one of ambition, dedication, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. As a shining example of leadership within the accounting profession, he serves as an inspiration to his community, peers, and family.

His journey into the world of accounting was not merely a result of happenstance. It was inspired by a combination of familial influence and a genuine interest in math and business.

Reflecting on his early motivations, Richard reminisces, "My father's career as an accountant, evolving from an entry-level office messenger to a Senior VP of Finance, served as a catalyst of encouragement. The profession was very good to my father and our family."

Witnessing his father's satisfaction and the opportunities the profession afforded him instilled in Richard the belief that accounting held immense potential for fulfillment and personal growth.

After graduating from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1985, Richard received his professional accounting designation in 1988 and, through a series of mergers, became part of Deloitte shortly thereafter. Nearly four decades later, he has left an enduring mark on the profession and in his community.

From serving clients on audit engagements to assuming multifaceted leadership roles within Deloitte, Richard's journey exemplifies the essence of thoughtful leadership, versatility, and adaptability.

Throughout his tenure with the firm, Richard played a pivotal role in handling significant client files, such as Manitoba Telecom Services' IPO, privatization of the Canadian Wheat Board, and the receivership of the Crocus Investment Fund.

"Each transaction served as a testament to ingenuity because it required a shift in thinking by all involved," he remarks, noting that witnessing individuals and groups navigate uncharted territories and employ innovative solutions to tackle complex issues, was a compelling and gratifying part of his role.



CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

His involvement in transitions of leadership and ownership within private companies further underscored the significance of trust and confidence placed in him as Senior Advisory Partner.

“Being entrusted with such responsibilities, invited into private family places that I consider almost sacred, can be profoundly transformative,” Richard explains. “Assisting in navigating through these crucial moments, and witnessing the positive outcomes, is immensely rewarding.”

Over the course of his illustrious career, Richard’s leadership philosophy evolved, placing emphasis on collaboration, team empowerment, and collective success.

“Leadership is not about individual accolades; it’s about fostering a collaborative environment where teams thrive and succeed collectively,” notes Richard, who was admitted to partnership at Deloitte LLP Canada just a short seven years after becoming a member and served on both the Deloitte National Executive Committee and Deloitte Canada / Chile Board of Directors.

Transitioning from Deloitte in 2023 marked a new chapter in Richard’s journey. Despite bidding farewell to his role as a partner, his passion for accounting and community engagement remains.

“My objective is to continue contributing meaningfully while exploring new avenues. Whether serving as a board director or strategic advisor, my focus remains on navigating complex organizational challenges and leveraging strategic ground-breaking thinking to drive outcomes,” he explains.

Reflecting on the pivotal moments that shaped his career, Richard highlighted his appointment as Chair of CPA Canada, which provided him with a platform to witness firsthand the exceptional calibre of professionals within the profession and the significant contributions they make.

“Being the first Manitoban to assume the role of Chair of CPA Canada was a tremendous honour,” he exclaims. The appointment was the culmination of his lifelong involvement in the profession, in which his most memorable experience was spearheading the transition of CPA education towards competency evaluation during his tenure as Chair of the Board of Evaluators at the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

“Shaping the landscape of competency evaluation for CPAs was an extraordinary journey that united top professionals within the field,” he says. “It was a testament to collective efforts and collaborative decision-making,”

For his many contributions to the profession, Richard was awarded the FCA designation in 2003. Humbled by this recognition, Richard carries his FCPA, FCA proudly in all communities.

Energized by challenges and driven by an authentic desire to help others, Richard’s lengthy history of service and accomplishments includes serving with the Winnipeg Airports Authority, University of Manitoba Board of Governors’ Finance & Infrastructure Committee, Tallgrass Employee-Owner Equity Fund, United Way Winnipeg, CentreVenture Development Corporation, Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute, and the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) Winnipeg Chapter, which he co-founded in 2012.

CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

Looking ahead, Richard envisions a future brimming with opportunities for CPAs across diverse sectors but stresses the importance of greater diversity and inclusion within the profession.

“Ensuring that the makeup of our profession reflects the makeup of our society is paramount in cultivating a sense of belonging and representation,” he emphasizes. “It’s fundamental to being a profession that anyone can see themselves pursuing.”

When asked about his advice for students and early-career professionals, Richard offers sage wisdom. “Every CPA, whether in Manitoba or across the country, possesses the potential to lead a stellar career,” advises Richard, remarking that the CPA designation opens doors to a myriad of opportunities, many of which may not be apparent at the outset.

“Numbers may be the foundation for accounting, but it’s not the only thing. There is so much more to it than that,” he affirms. “In a world where change is the only constant, understanding the essence of adaptability, and seizing opportunities becomes paramount. Be open to opportunities and take calculated risks!”

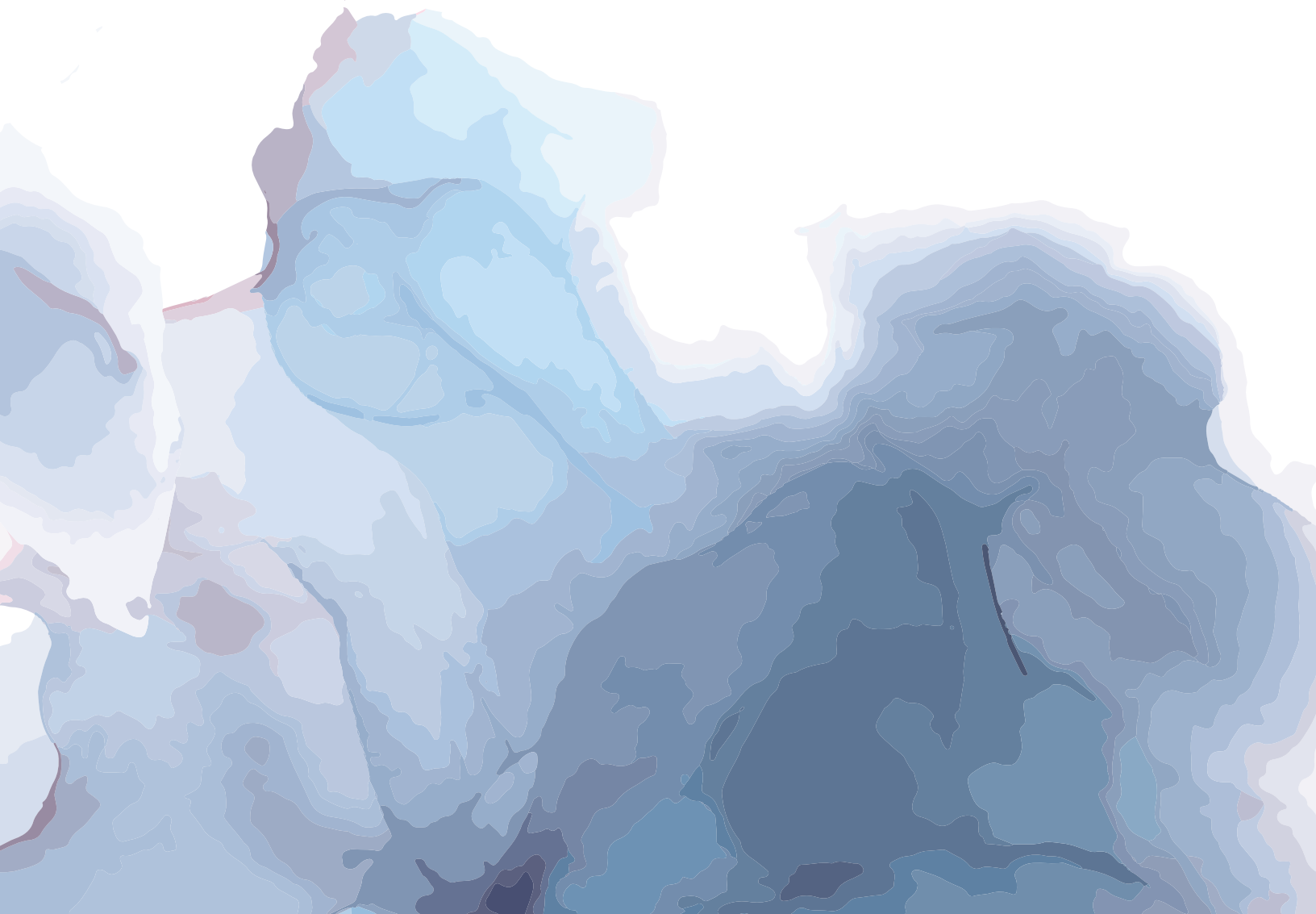
Reminiscing about his own career journey and its trajectory to the present moment, Richard notes that receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award holds personal significance for him. It serves as a validation of his career approach rooted in faith, humility, and gratitude towards the support of his family and mentors.

“While it’s certainly gratifying to receive recognition, I recognize that it’s somewhat illusory. None of this would have been possible without the invaluable contributions of numerous individuals who have supported, taught, and guided me along the way,” he explains. “This award serves as validation of the efforts invested by those who have generously shared their time and wisdom with me, with my family standing at the forefront of that list.”

While his achievements have been truly outstanding, Richard is most proud of his wife and three children who have kept him grounded, brought much humour to his life, and have been a significant source of encouragement throughout his career.

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)

Derek Boutang, FCPA, FCMA

Known for his thoughtful leadership and steadfast ability to provide exceptional service, Derek's reputation with Skip-The-Dishes is well-deserved. As Head of Engineering, Derek leads a global team of over 100 software engineers, supporting a vast network of corporate and restaurant partners in delivering food through Canada's largest delivery network. His responsibilities include defining and executing technical strategy, ensuring platform operation and stability, driving hiring and retention efforts, and fostering a culture of innovation and excellence.

Despite embarking on a career path that may not be considered conventional for a CPA, Derek has effectively levered the skills and principles acquired through his designation to excel as a versatile leader. Over his distinguished 25-year career, Derek implemented an automated reporting system for tracking profitable efforts related to Skip's CapEx projects - a model that has since been adopted globally across all product lines. Derek also led the development of Skip's hiring model and training processes, including the innovative Incubator program, which has been instrumental in Skip's transformation into a leading Canadian organization. Prior to his current role, Derek was Chief Information Officer at Pembina Trails School Division where he championed several initiatives including the organization's print consolidation and enterprise portal projects.

Derek's dedication to improving financial literacy has been profound, fueling his decision to deliver numerous in-person and online sessions each year at Skip and in the broader community. His commitment to coaching and mentorship is evident through his involvement as a mentor in Skip's Product and Technology mentorship program and Women in Tech, where he serves as an ambassador. A prominent advocate for his profession, Derek has served as the Chair of the CPA Manitoba Foundation Board, contributing to the approval of the Foundation's strategic plan and prioritization of equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives.

Derek also shines in his extensive community volunteer roles. His long list of achievements includes sitting on the Executive Committee for the Manitoba Association of Educational Technology Leaders, acting as Secretary Treasurer for Ted's Run for Literacy, and contributing as Secretary and President for the Manitoba Runner's Association. Fun fact: Derek is known for having completed a full marathon in each of the 50 United States, 10 Canadian provinces, and three Canadian territories. He also regularly volunteers his time to causes such as Variety's Bike Camp, South East Sno-Riders, Never Alone Cancer Foundation, and the Manitoba Marathon.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Brian Brown, FCPA, FCMA

Brian's career is characterized by a commitment to excellence in both professional and community spheres. Those commitments revolve around Brian's two main passions - growing the internal audit profession and making the world a better place for children. Professionally, with more than three decades of experience, Brian has helped businesses across private and public sectors succeed, while adding to the competencies of colleagues and aspiring professionals.

Prior to retiring from the Canadian Grain Commission in 2019, Brian served as Chief Audit & Evaluation Executive for a decade. There, he established new internal audit and program evaluation functions, as well as a Departmental Audit Committee, fostering a culture of good governance throughout the organization. During his previous tenure at Agricore United, Brian built and led a world-class private sector internal audit function that was highly regarded both locally and nationally.

Throughout his career, he has been a tireless advocate for internal audit. Notable accomplishments include his contributions to the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), where he led reorganization efforts to unite the Canada chapters into a national body and served on the IIA Canada, North American and Global boards. Brian's dedication to governance is evident through his role as a founding faculty member of The Directors College and as program chair for the Manitoba Chapter of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Recently, Brian joined the board of Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation, serving as Audit Committee Chair, successfully improving the function of the Audit Committee and enhancing the valuable relationships with both internal audit and the Office of the Auditor General of Manitoba.

Brian consistently demonstrates leadership and professionalism, which extends into the community.

He has dedicated a significant portion of the past 35 years to children's activities, including his 15-year tenure as a leader on the Board of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 23 years coaching youth and women's soccer, and five years on the board of Marymount Inc.

Since 2019, Brian has operated his own independent consulting practice offering valuable support to organizations in internal audit, governance, and risk management.

Brian's passion for ensuring his contributions make a significant difference have earned him several accolades, including the IIA Arthur Child Distinguished Service in Canada Award and a Civic Appreciation Award from the City of Winnipeg for his contributions to the community.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Michael Delaurier, FCPA, FCA

A practicing CPA for nearly two decades, Michael's fierce leadership, infectious enthusiasm, and professional integrity has helped define his career. As Partner at Exchange Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, Michael has been instrumental in the growth and prosperity of this local Chartered Professional Accounting and consulting firm in the province.

During his 15-year tenure with the firm, Michael has worked with a wide range of clients including publicly traded companies, non-profit organizations, and First Nations entities. Michael's technical proficiency, combined with his pragmatic approach to problem-solving, has earned him a reputation as a trusted advisor among his clients and colleagues. His exemplary mix of executive leadership and vast skillsets were cultivated during his formative years, starting with Exchange Chartered Professional Accountants, and later with Lazer Grant LLP and Grant Thornton LLP.

As an esteemed leader and mentor, Michael has helped shape and develop aspiring CPAs, sharing his knowledge, experience, and real-life examples to help them succeed in their careers. What truly distinguishes Michael is not only his creation of valuable learning experiences but his empathetic approach and sincere dedication to ensuring that every individual feels heard and understood. In the past eight years, Exchange writers have achieved an outstanding 100% pass rate on the first attempt at the CFE exam, and Michael was proud to have developed the program to support the firm's writers. His enduring impact and deep-rooted dedication to help others and advance the profession earned him the Early Achievement Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Manitoba in 2013.

Michael extends the dedication he has been recognized for in his career to his community as well. He has generously given his time and skills to serve numerous organizations through key leadership positions, which include Kookum's Place Daycare, Prairie Children's Centre and the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development Inc. (CAHRD). As Treasurer with CAHRD, an organization committed to eliminating educational barriers for Indigenous people, Michael provides financial expertise and strategic oversight to add value to the organization. This is evident by his successful facilitation of a partnership between his firm and CAHRD to create valuable hands-on work experience opportunities for Indigenous students.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

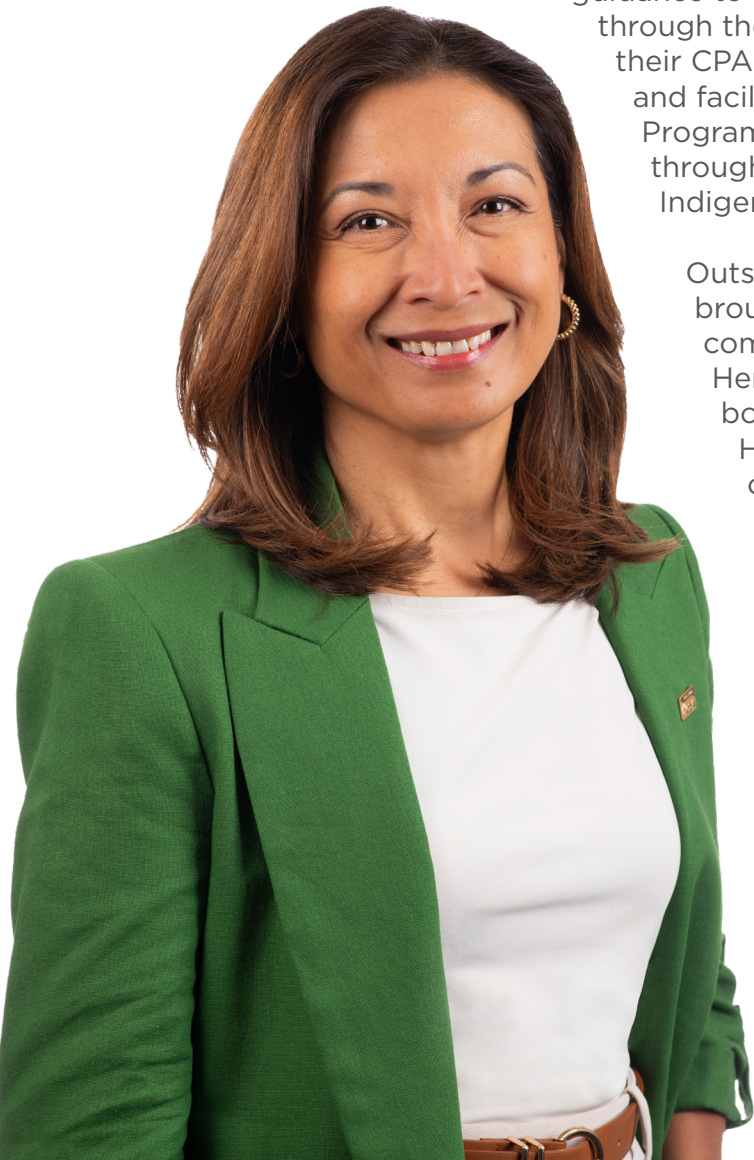
Aileen Naismith, FCPA, FCA

A seasoned financial executive with a distinguished career spanning over three decades, Aileen's unwavering commitment to her profession is characterized by her ability to drive change, foster collaboration, and deliver results. Aileen's professional journey began at Deloitte LLP, where she honed her skills in audit, risk management, and strategy across various roles. She now holds the role of Senior Vice President and Chief Audit Executive at IGM Financial Inc. where she oversees a high-performing team that provides assurance and advisory services to the company's subsidiaries, including IG Wealth Management and Mackenzie Investments.

Prior to her current role, Aileen led Air Canada's Corporate Audit and Advisory group, providing essential services such as audit, risk advisory, and investigation services. Her nearly 10-year tenure at Air Canada also saw her successfully spearhead and implement initiatives to mature the internal audit function and enhance enterprise risk management reporting practices.

A staunch advocate of the CPA profession, Aileen is the executive leader of the IG Wealth Management CPA program, which provides a robust mentorship platform, offering support and guidance to skilled professionals as they navigate their way through the complexities of the financial services sector and their CPA designation. Most notably, Aileen has championed and facilitated the development of the IGM Indigenous CPA Program Stream pilot, which aims to support reconciliation through the attraction, development and retention of Indigenous talent within the organization.

Outside of her vast career achievements, Aileen has brought her drive and commitment to giving back to her community through various volunteer engagements. Her list of accomplishments includes sitting on the board and committees for Winnipeg Harvest (now Harvest Manitoba), Legal Aid Manitoba, Institute of Internal Auditors Winnipeg Chapter, and most currently, Safety Services Manitoba. In her role as Vice-Chair of Safety Services Manitoba, Aileen and her fellow board members have led safety advancements that have directly translated into economic benefits for businesses by reducing workplace accidents. Her dedication to promoting diversity and the arts is evident by her involvement in cultural and community events, including volunteering with Folklorama (most notably as a past Ambassador General), Magdaragat Philippines Inc., and the Manitoba Filipino Street Festival.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Andrea Saj, FCPA, FCGA

Andrea's unwavering commitment to her profession is characterized by her leadership and her deep-rooted commitment to making Manitoba a better place to live. Her journey to success began as an Accountant Technician with the City of Winnipeg. In 2009, Andrea embarked on a career with the Province of Manitoba, starting in the Department of Health as a Financial Analyst. Through dedication and hard work, she progressed to roles of increasing responsibility, eventually attaining the position of Executive Director of Public Accounts and, presently she is the Provincial Comptroller of Manitoba.

Andrea brings two decades of experience in financial leadership and public sector accounting to her role, where she leads departmental Executive Financial Officers in strategic financial planning, business planning and analysis, overseeing operational service delivery, and applying accounting standards in a variety of contexts to provide sound business advice while safeguarding government assets.

Her steadfast commitment to excellence and passion for making a positive impact have been crucial in expanding provincial ministries' public financial accountability, improving transparency, and enhancing financial reporting accessibility in the province. Noteworthy among her accomplishments is the development of tailored technology systems for municipal libraries, the provincial health insurance plan, and most recently as a co-sponsor of the provincial enterprise resource planning modernization project. Additionally, she led the adoption of public sector accounting standards for all Manitoba provincial public sector organizations. She has been actively involved in several cross-departmental committees to enable successful implementation of a variety of government priority programs with partner departments to the benefit of Manitobans.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Andrea volunteers her time as Treasurer for a provincial sport organization and the largest swim club in the province. As a key member of the board executives, Andrea has implemented formal financial and reporting structures, policies, and controls, ensuring the organization's financial sustainability and successful business continuity, enabling continued participation growth.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Tyson Shtykalo, FCPA, FCA

Guided by a strong sense of integrity, Tyson inspires those around him with his exceptional leadership and commitment to upholding the management of public funds. For nearly two decades, Tyson has dedicated himself to public service, demonstrating expertise in auditing and financial management. His journey within the Office of the Auditor General of Manitoba began in 2002, where he progressively advanced from various roles, before assuming the position of Deputy Auditor General/Assistant Auditor General.

In 2020, Tyson's exemplary track record and unwavering commitment led to his appointment as Auditor General. With a team of approximately 55 professionals, Tyson ensures the highest standards of financial integrity, accountability, and good governance are upheld across government entities. Despite encountering an immediate challenge with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tyson demonstrated professionalism and compassion by ensuring the completion of all audits entirely remotely. Notably, Tyson formalized the investigation and citizen concern functions, a unique and forward-thinking move within the Auditor General's offices across Canada.



Beyond his academic and financial prowess, Tyson is deeply committed to giving back to the community.

Tyson actively contributes to professional development initiatives, serving as a member of committees such as the Practice Inspection Committee for CPA Manitoba and previously ICAM. He also volunteers his time with organizations like Folklorama, the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation, and the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors, where he served as a member on several committees for more than a decade.

Noteworthy is Tyson's involvement with the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation's (CAAF) International Program, where he traveled to Guyana to provide multi-day training to auditors, financial staff, and elected officials, which included consultations and workshops about Canadian practices in the areas of Value-for-Money audits.

Tyson's contributions, both in his professional capacity and through his personal endeavours have made a lasting impact within the profession and the broader community, earning him the respect and admiration of his peers.

Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Shipra Verma, FCPA, FCA

Throughout her career, Shipra has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to integrity, innovation, and community service, leaving a lasting impact on electoral administration and civic engagement in Manitoba. Her career achievements led to her current position as Chief Electoral Officer of Manitoba, where she is responsible for the conduct of free and fair elections. Since 2010, Shipra has guided diverse teams in the successful delivery of four general elections and numerous byelections.

Shipra is dedicated to fostering democratic engagement by living the values of innovation, fairness, integrity, excellence, accountability and respect to make voting more convenient and accessible. Shipra has led Elections Manitoba in the development of education and outreach programs tailored to communities that often face barriers to voting.

Committed to advancing knowledge and proficiency in electoral administration, Shipra is a co-founder of the steering committee for the Canadian Society of Election Official Training, providing election-related training across the country. As past President and Program Co-Chair of the Council on Government Ethics Laws (COGEL), Shipra spearheaded significant improvements to enhance service quality and operational efficiency. Shipra's involvement with both these organizations underscores her dedication to continuing education and professional development through facilitating collaboration and the exploration of emerging topics. Shipra has also participated in international election observer programs in the U.S.A., Ukraine, Russia and India.

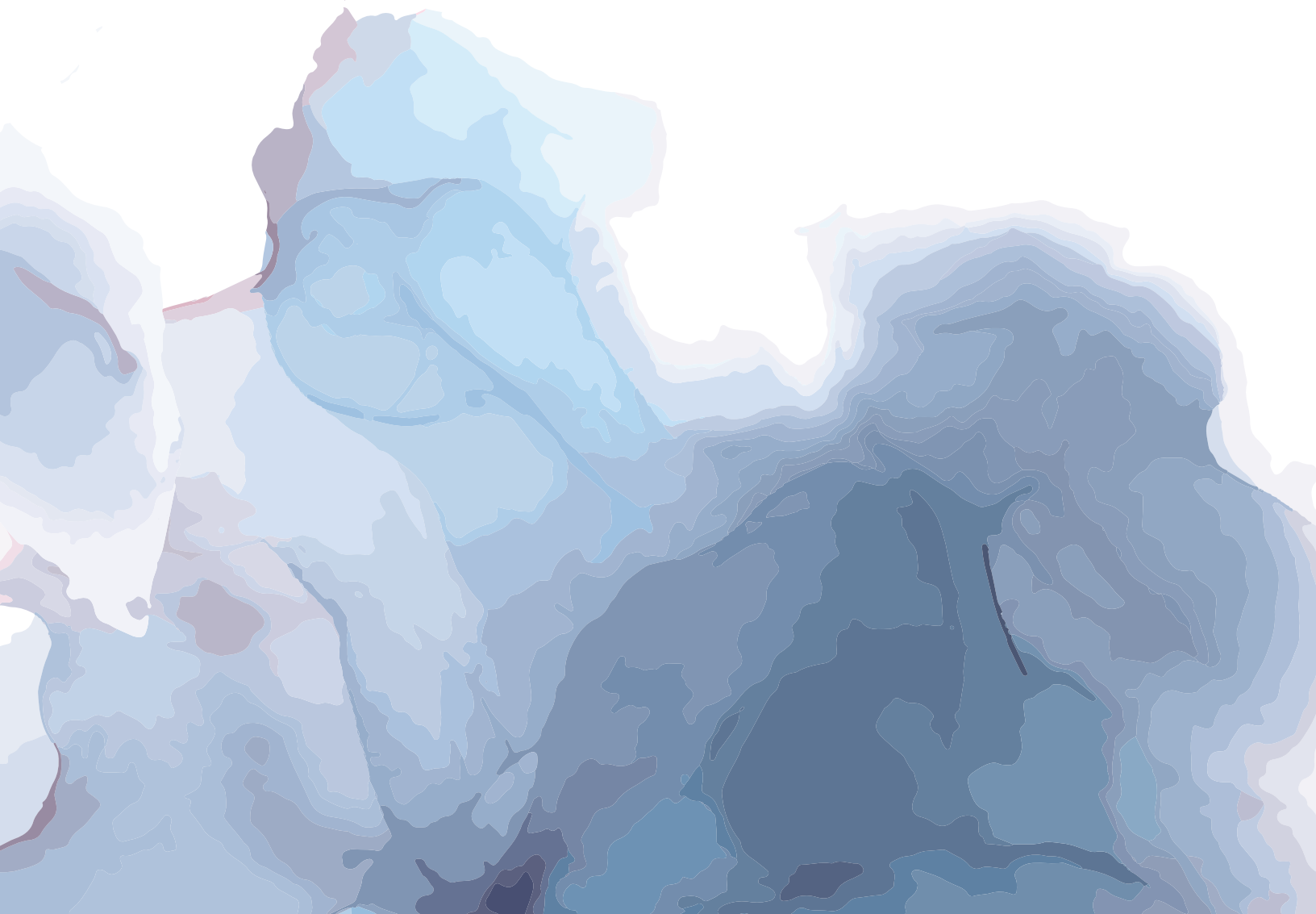
Parallel to her noteworthy career is her service on multiple boards and committees, extending her community involvement beyond electoral matters. Shipra is currently serving on the boards of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba and as a lay councillor for the Council of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba.

Past service includes CPA Manitoba, where she served as an active member of its Governance and Nominating Committee and Ownership Linkage Committee, the Hindu Society of Manitoba, and acting as an ambassador for Folklorama. In recognition of her contributions to forging new pathways for women in Manitoba, Shipra was one of 18 women to receive the Trailblazers of the First 100 Years from the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.



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

Graeme Findlay, CPA, CA

For more than a decade, Graeme has dedicated himself to the growth and development of the accounting profession. After obtaining his designation while at Deloitte LLP in 2013, Graeme joined Scarrow & Donald Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, with a focus on assurance, tax, and advisory services. As a Senior Manager, Graeme plays an integral role leading the practice, providing invaluable guidance and support to ensure the continuity of client relationships and services.

Throughout his career, Graeme has demonstrated a commitment to mentorship and leadership, fostering the growth of students, colleagues, and clients alike. Driven by a passion for making a difference, Graeme continues to leverage his professional skills and leadership abilities to provide guidance to young entrepreneurs and immigrants.

Outside of his career achievements, Graeme has brought his drive and enthusiasm to a variety of organizations including the Winnipeg Folk Festival, Clinic Community Health and Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (Manitoba Division). In his role as Vice-Chair and Treasurer for the Winnipeg Folk Festival, Graeme provides financial oversight and strategic decision-making, contributing to the success and sustainability of the organization. His commitment was further exemplified by his representation on the Executive Director Hiring Committee, recognizing the significance of selecting a new leader for this nearly 50-year-old institution, which was a crucial and time-sensitive process.



Early Achievement Award

David Pestrak, CPA, CA

David's drive, innovative spirit, and sharp business acumen, coupled with his capacity for continuous learning and dedication to helping others, sets him apart as a true leader in his field. He began his career at Deloitte LLP, where he served for nearly a decade, working his way up to Manager in the Assurance and Advisory practice. In 2017, he was recruited to join AutoCanada Inc. where he embarked on a remarkable journey of growth and achievement. Starting as Controller, David quickly rose through the ranks to become Chief Controller, Director of Acquisition Operations, and now Vice President of Acquisition Operations.

Always challenging the art of the possible in favour of continuous improvement, David's contributions to AutoCanada have been nothing short of transformative. David spearheaded the integration of numerous acquisitions, overseeing the successful transition of over 25 rooftops into AutoCanada's network of stores, adding significant profitability to AutoCanada and value to its shareholders. His strategic thinking and operational acumen have also been instrumental in several other important projects, including the operationalization of aspects of AutoCanada's used digital segment, as well as the publication of AutoCanada's inaugural ESG report.

David has made a great impact as a mentor, dedicating his time to developing future CPAs. In addition to mentoring CPA students at Deloitte and now AutoCanada, he is also a respected ambassador of CPA Manitoba and CPA Alberta.

A singer, songwriter and acclaimed guitar player, David has also been known to share his time and talents at CPA Manitoba Conferences, and with various charitable organizations, including the St. Boniface Hospital's Cardiac Centre of Excellence, Tim Horton Foundation Camp Day, Special Olympics, Manitoba Brain Injury Association, among others.



Early Achievement Award

Neil Richard, CPA, CA

Having distinguished himself early in his career as a formidable leader and principled professional, Neil consistently demonstrates a commitment to excellence in everything he does. After working his way from a summer internship to Manager with Ernst & Young LLP, Neil expanded his personal and professional horizons by moving to Dublin, Ireland to work with MUFG Fund Services where he served as an Internal Audit Supervisor.

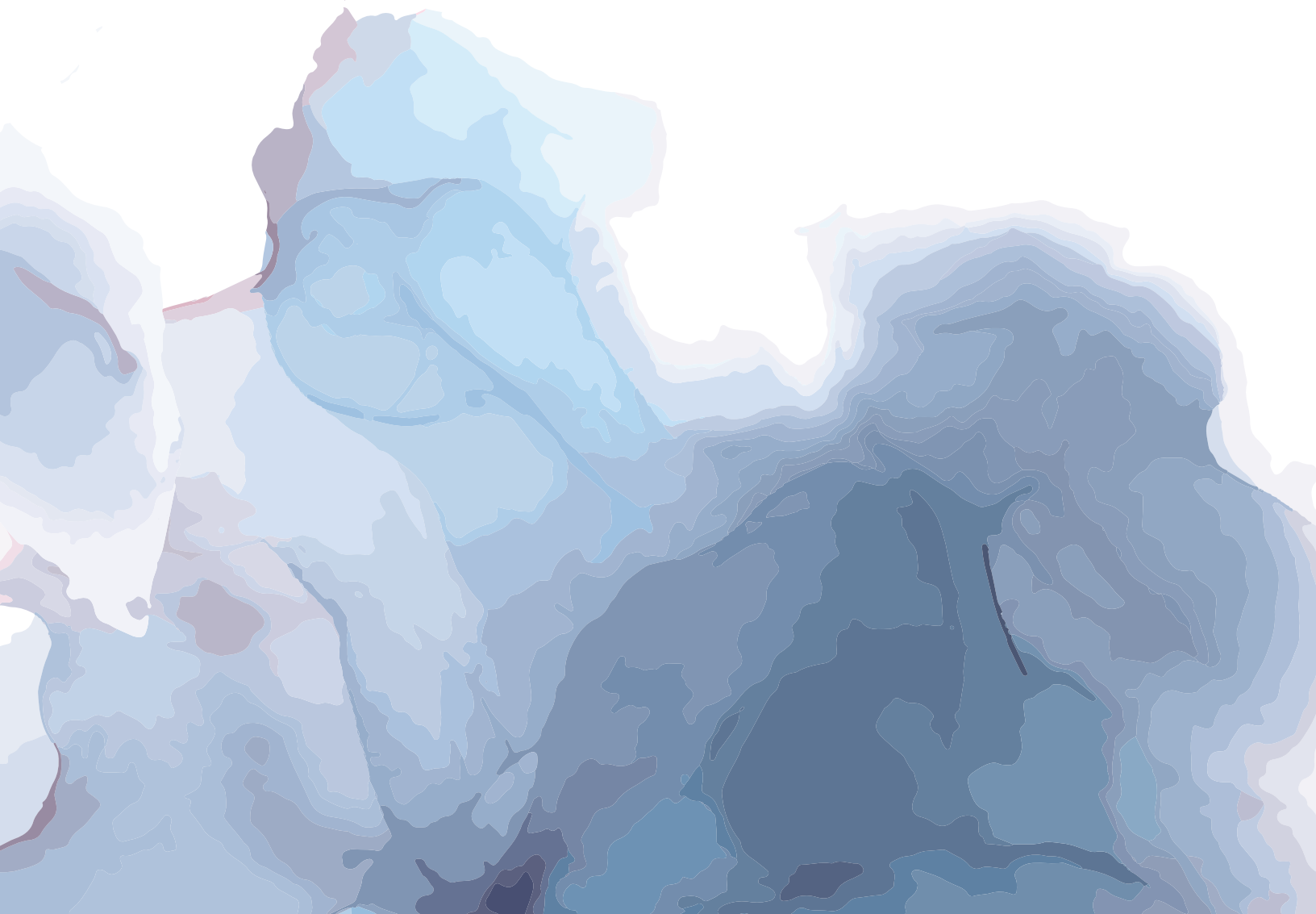
In his current role as Manager of Risk and Compliance with Ducks Unlimited Canada, he is a key member of the Finance Management Team and oversees the company's corporate insurance portfolio, risk management initiatives, compliance responsibilities, and internal audit activities. Neil's exceptional leadership abilities were recognized early on, leading to interim appointments as Corporate Controller and Acting Director of Legal, where he demonstrated his versatility and ability to excel in diverse roles.

Neil's dedication to excellence extends beyond his professional endeavours. This is evidenced by his extensive volunteer work in the community, serving numerous organizations through several executive positions. He is currently Chair of the Audit Committee for Safety Services Manitoba, and has served other organizations including Glendale Golf & Country Club, Elmwood Community Resource Centre and the Manitoba Amateur Boxing Association. His commitment to the community is further exemplified by his five-year tenure with Green Action Centre as Treasurer, Board Chair, and Past Chair. Under his leadership, new governance improvement initiatives were introduced, and Neil has been instrumental in developing strong governance structures, helping guide the organization towards long-term success.



Distinguished Service Award

The CPA Manitoba Distinguished Service Award is bestowed to members who have made outstanding contributions to community service or to volunteer organizations, served the CPA profession in a distinguished fashion, or contributed to the development of young CPAs through mentorship excellence.



Distinguished Service Award

Mark Gray, CPA, CA

Throughout his 40-year career, Mark has provided professional advice and been extensively involved in community activities. Following his call to the Bar in 1980 he joined PWC ultimately becoming a Tax Partner. In 1994, Mark co-founded an independent professional consulting firm, Gray & Brown, where he focused on providing taxation and business advice to private companies. Following Gray & Brown, Mark worked for Richardson Capital Limited in the private equity industry. Since 2011, Mark has continued to provide consulting services on tax and business matters as a sole practitioner, while still contributing to the community and trying to enjoy semi-retirement.

Mark has a remarkable record of community service with several organizations. Most important to him is the commitment to child health through continuing involvement with the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba and the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, from volunteering at the Teddy Bears' Picnic to being Board Chair of both organizations. These contributions have supported groundbreaking research initiatives helping to improve health outcomes for children. In addition, he contributed his expertise to promote and fund research activities enhancing the health of Manitobans by serving for 20 years on the board and executive of Manitoba Medical Services Foundation.

In addition to his work in the medical research sector, Mark has made significant contributions to the accounting profession as a volunteer for over 20 years with the CPA Professional Liability Plan Inc. (CPA PLI). He served on the Professional Liability Insurance Committee of Canada for six years, eventually becoming its Chair. In 2008, he was appointed as a CAIA Trustee, providing invaluable guidance in creating a new organizational structure for CPA PLI.



Distinguished Service Award

Harun Kibirige, CPA, CA

Harun has brought distinction to the profession, earning a reputation as a stellar leader, mentor and dedicated member of the community. After working in public practice at both Deloitte LLP and BDO Canada LLP, Harun joined Canada Life in 2013 and currently holds the role of Assistant Vice-President, Investment Operations & Reporting.

In everything he does, Harun demonstrates a high level of integrity, leadership, and professionalism, which extends into the community. Notable involvements include his seven-year tenure as Treasurer with the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc. and his 10-year commitment as Treasurer with the Islamic Social Services Association Inc, where he offers financial oversight and guidance to this not-for-profit association that provides family, health and social services to the many cultural and ethnic groups that comprise the Muslim communities in Manitoba and Canada. Harun also served as Chair of The Hood Fams Inc. Board, a community organization that provides education and support services to help prevent newcomer youth from gang or justice system involvement. He also serves on the board of the Manitoba Museum and currently leads the Winnipeg Treaty One chapter of Food Not Bombs. This movement champions social justice and addresses food security by providing free community meals.

With a passion for making a positive impact, Harun continues to empower those around him to reach their full potential. As a mentor with the Asper Graduate Mentorship Program, Harun provides guidance and support to aspiring graduates.



Distinguished Service Award

Campbell McIntyre, CPA, CA

Passionate about making a difference and inspired by the profession's call to give back, Campbell's lifelong dedication to service and community enrichment is truly inspiring. Over the span of 50 years, he has generously contributed his knowledge and time to thirteen different organizations.

Noteworthy in his volunteer efforts is his involvement with Rainbow Stage, which holds a special significance in his life, having had his first date at the venue in 1966 with his wife, Lorraine. Campbell's passion for theatre and community engagement is deeply ingrained, as evidenced by his instrumental role in reviving Rainbow Stage in 2006, coupled with his 25-year tenure with the organization. Serving in various capacities, including Treasurer and President, Campbell's dedication culminated in his recognition as the first Director Emeritus in 2021.

His commitment to community service is evident in his extensive involvement serving on the boards of local nonprofit organizations and charities, including Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, W.A.S.O., Junior Achievement, Ronald McDonald House, and the Neutropenia Support Association Inc., where he co-founded and co-chaired the organization's annual golf tournament fundraiser for 20 years. Currently, he serves as Chair with The Gifts of Grace Street Mission, an organization he co-founded in 2011 to provide food and dignity to the hungry and the homeless in the Main Street area.

Campbell was honoured with a place on Rainbow Stage's Wall of Fame in 2009, received the Honorary Theatre Champion Award from the Winnipeg Theatre Awards in 2020, and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022, underscoring his lasting impact on the arts and community alike.



Distinguished Service Award

Carla Milne, CPA, CA

A well-respected leader amongst her peers and clients, Carla is committed to upholding the high standards of the profession through her role as Partner and Regional Leader, Real Estate and Construction & Succession at MNP LLP. Over her 20-year career with MNP, Carla has been responsible for providing advice to small and medium-sized businesses within the construction industry and has dedicated her time to develop the talent within the firm by facilitating internal training and mentorship sessions.

Carla's impact on the construction industry and her community is profound and enduring. Throughout her 11-year tenure serving as the President and now Past President on the Construction Association of Rural Manitoba (CARM) Board, Carla prioritized building connections with the national association and fostering relationships critical to industry advocacy. In recognition of Carla's exceptional contributions as the first female President of CARM, the organization established the Carla Milne Outstanding Women in the Industry Award, which serves to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women in trades.

Carla also serves on various boards, including the Canadian Construction Association, Pension Commission of Manitoba, and previously served on the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and Assiniboine Community College Board of Governors.

In recognition of her significant contributions, Carla was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal. Her legacy of leadership and dedication to community is further exemplified by the establishment of the Milne and Lischka Family Leader Legacy Fund, reflecting her commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts and community-minded initiatives.



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