

2025 CPA Manitoba

MEMBER RECOGNITION SPOTLIGHT



Message from CPA Manitoba's President & CEO

On behalf of CPA Manitoba, congratulations to the seventeen members who are being celebrated through the Member Recognition Program in 2025. A special acknowledgment to Donna Price, FCPA, FCGA, who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her lifetime of contributions that have brought honour and visibility to the profession.

This year's recipients are leaders in their careers which span across public practice, industry, public sector and education. They represent the profession with integrity and prestige, showcasing what it means to be a CPA. In the community, they are highly regarded for their dedication and contributions to charitable and non-profit organizations.

The positive impact that our members who dedicate their time and energy to volunteerism make in all corners of our province deserves 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

Donna Price, FCPA, FCGA

In a modest cubicle at Air Canada's Finance Branch mail desk, Donna Price kept an organizational chart pinned to her wall. She often found herself studying it, not out of envy but with curiosity. "How did these people get there?" she wondered. "Was it their education? Their experience? Their connections?"

Growing up in the 1960s, Donna saw few career options for women. "Back then, it seemed like your choices were teacher, nurse, or secretary," she recalls.

For a time, following in her mother's footsteps as a secretary seemed inevitable. But it was her father, a mid-level manager at Canadian National Railway, who sparked her interest for something more. He often brought his work home, and Donna was eager to help.

"I loved sifting through his reports and analyzing the numbers," she reminisces with a smile. "There was a logic to it that just made sense to me."

At the time, Donna had no clear career aspirations beyond learning and growing. But that quiet curiosity planted a seed that would blossom into a remarkable journey.

Drawn to mathematics and logic, Donna pursued a degree in Computer Science while working summer jobs at Air Canada. One day, she asked a director what steps she could take to build a career at the company. His advice was simple yet pivotal: "Get your CGA designation."

"I walked straight to the CGA office, grabbed a brochure, and I was inspired," she says. The program's structure, flexibility and practical focus resonated deeply.

Balancing full-time work with her CGA studies demanded long hours and relentless focus, but Donna's commitment never wavered.

Her determination didn't go unnoticed. When a manager asked why she was taking CGA courses, her response was clear: "I just want to learn and grow and be ready when the right opportunity comes along".

That mindset, rooted in preparation and ambition, served her well and set her on a course that would shape her illustrious career.



CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

Donna became the first female manager in Air Canada's finance division before transitioning to the fast-paced world of airport operations. There, she thrived - tackling logistical challenges, finding creative solutions, and earning a reputation as a forward-thinking and decisive leader.

"I loved the challenge," she exclaims. "Operations required me to think differently, and that's where I excelled."

In a male-dominated environment, Donna's ability to streamline processes, improve efficiencies, and empower her teams set her apart. Eventually, she became General Manager of Toronto Pearson Airport, one of North America's busiest hubs. From there, Donna made history as Air Canada's first female Vice President.

In her role as Vice President of Airports, she oversaw 700 flights per day, led 6,000 employees worldwide, and managed a \$340 million budget. The organizational chart that she once studied from her cubicle now bore her name.

"I never imagined I'd be on that chart one day," Donna reflects. "But I believed in putting my hand up, learning, and trusting that hard work would get me there."

One defining moment solidified Donna's belief in her abilities. As one of only two non-Montreal-based VPs, she was en route to an important meeting when a colleague expressed confusion about a financial issue that had upset the CEO. Drawing on her financial expertise, Donna calmly broke down the problem and explained the CEO's concern.

"That's when I realized I could hold my own," notes Donna. "Thanks to my CGA training, I had the tools to navigate complex financial issues, and that gave me confidence."

For Donna, leadership was never about titles, it was about building strong teams and empowering people to succeed.

"Helping others thrive, that's what's most meaningful," she shares earnestly. "When your team feels valued, equipped, and proud of their achievements, everyone wins."

That philosophy carried over to her role as Senior Vice President of Customer Service and Card Operations at CIBC. There, she led 1,500 employees and managed a \$710 billion credit business. By championing teamwork and collaboration, she fostered a culture where employees felt heard, respected and empowered to excel.

Throughout her career, Donna remained deeply committed to advancing the accounting profession which was evident in her service on numerous committees for CGA Manitoba and CGA Canada. As CGA Manitoba President, her contributions supported initiatives like funding a state-of-the-art lecture theatre at the University of Manitoba and establishing the CGA Scholarship Trust Fund.

In her role as Vice-Chair of CGA Canada, Donna played an instrumental role in ensuring the unification process of the three professional accounting bodies in Canada was thoughtful and strategic.

CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award

“It was never just about the technical side,” Donna reflects. “It was about building something better by improving education, services and creating opportunities for generations to come.”

Her impactful contributions were recognized in 2008 when she was named one of the top 100 CGAs of all time to make a difference by CGA Canada.

Even in retirement, Donna’s dedication to her community remains steadfast. Whether mentoring CPA candidates, volunteering with organizations like the True Patriot Love Foundation, or serving on boards such as the Winnipeg Airports Authority, Donna continues to create meaningful change.

Looking back, Donna credits her success to curiosity, adaptability and a genuine desire to help others.

“I always asked, ‘How can I help?’” she explains, sharing the advice she’d give to future generations. “That simple question opens conversations, builds trust and creates opportunities for growth. It’s about understanding what others need, working together and finding common goals. That’s what drives success.”

Resilience, Donna believes, is just as important.

“I didn’t have a network like others,” she admits. “But I paid attention to leaders who inspired me. Great leaders shape how you show up and how to do the right things, for the right reasons.”

Today, Donna enjoys quiet moments at the lake, cherishing moments with family. Her niece and nephew’s children affectionately call her ‘Grandma,’ a role she embraces with pride.

Yet even in quieter moments, her legacy remains vibrant – one built on curiosity and a relentless desire to lift others.

Receiving the CPA Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award was an unexpected but deeply moving honour.

“I honestly thought it was a mistake,” she laughs. “It’s incredibly humbling to be recognized for something I’ve loved doing.”

For Donna, the award represents more than personal achievement, it’s a testament to the values that have guided her career.

“I never set out to win awards,” she explains. “I just kept asking, ‘How can I help?’ And that’s what opened doors - for myself, for my teams and for the people I’ve had the privilege to support.”

From her early days in a mailroom cubicle to becoming Air Canada’s first female Vice President of Airports, Donna’s story is proof that resilience, education and a commitment to helping others can turn even the most ambitious dreams into reality.

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)

Robert Biscontri, FCPA, FCGA

A dedicated educator, researcher and mentor, Robert has spent over two decades shaping the future of accounting and business leaders. As Associate Dean of Undergraduate and International Programs at the I.H. Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba, he has played a key role in modernizing curriculum and fostering student success. His efforts to integrate technology-driven learning into the accounting curriculum, such as data analytics, ensure students gain expertise in tools essential to the profession.

Research has been another cornerstone of Robert's career. He has explored cutting-edge topics such as neural networks, earnings forecasting and pharmaco-economics, with his work published in prestigious academic journals across North America and Hong Kong. His book on earnings forecasting using neural networks remains a key contribution to the field.

Robert has played a pivotal role in shaping university policy and student experiences through his decade-long tenure at the University of Manitoba Senate. His leadership on the University of Manitoba's Disciplinary Committee, where he currently serves as Chair, and his contributions to the COVID Recovery Steering Committee underscore his commitment to student well-being and institutional progress.

His dedication to diversity, inclusion, and the arts is equally evident. As Vice President of Programming for Pride Winnipeg, he introduced IT solutions that streamlined festival operations and was instrumental in organizing the first Trans March. As Treasurer and Board Trustee at Manitoba Opera, he led a comprehensive financial review that strengthened the organization's long-term sustainability. He has also been an active mentor and advisor to student organizations such as the I.H. Asper School of Business Accounting Association, Commerce Students' Association, and the University of Manitoba Queer/2SLGBTQIA+ Asper Students.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions, Robert has received numerous accolades, including the 2022 University of Manitoba Merit Award and the prestigious Fellow Certified Practising Accountant (FCPA) designation from CPA Australia. His passion for education, research, and community service continues to drive meaningful changes in accounting and business leadership.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Crystal Buhler, FCPA, FCGA

Driven by a passion for helping individuals and businesses navigate financial challenges, Crystal has built an impressive career as a Licensed Insolvency Trustee (LIT), accountant and educator. In 2019, she founded C. Buhler & Associates Ltd., rapidly expanding the firm's reach across Western Canada and the North, championing access to financial counselling and insolvency services for clients in even the most remote locations.

Crystal began her insolvency career at Keith G. Collins Ltd., where she learned the value of compassionate, professional support in helping clients navigate financial challenges. She continued her career with MNP Ltd., building her reputation as a trusted financial expert. After founding her own firm and travelling to provide in-person guidance, Crystal pioneered virtual insolvency services, making financial restructuring options accessible to clients living in rural and remote communities.

A passionate advocate for education and mentorship, Crystal has helped shape future financial professionals as an accounting, business, and law instructor at Assiniboine College and Robertson College. Her commitment to ongoing learning is evident through her mentorship of new insolvency professionals and articling students. As a volunteer with CPA Canada's Financial Literacy Program, Crystal brings essential financial knowledge to students, community organizations and non-profits both locally, and in the north. As a CPA Manitoba Regional Ambassador, she has been fostering professional connections and promoting the CPA profession in the Brandon/Westman region since 2017.

Within the insolvency community, Crystal has played a pivotal role in shaping insolvency policy as a board member and President of the Manitoba Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals. Her involvement with the Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals includes serving on the Media/Communications, Continuing Education and Consumer Practice Committees. Her thoughtful contributions have led to invitations to government roundtables and, more recently, a select delegation to present industry insights to the Superintendent of Bankruptcy. Crystal is also a frequent guest speaker, sharing her expertise on personal finance, the debt advisory marketplace and the impact of debt on mental health with professional organizations and community groups.

Her dedication has earned her prestigious accolades, including the CAIRP New Member's Award of Merit and the CAIRP Outstanding Volunteer Award.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Brian Gilchrist, FCPA, FCMA

An astute leader and principled professional, Brian exemplifies what it means to be a CPA. As Vice President, Finance & Operations at Pulse Canada, he has played a critical role in driving operational excellence, overseeing multi-million-dollar funding programs and streamlining financial processes. Under his leadership, the organization has modernized IT systems, enhanced board operations and successfully completed a facility build from the ground up.

With over two decades of experience spanning multiple industries, Brian has built a reputation for transforming financial strategy and governance. From Superb Construction Group to the University of Winnipeg Foundation, Diocese of Rupertsland, and Crown Construction Equipment, he has been instrumental in implementing advanced accounting systems, restructuring financial policies and improving governance frameworks, consistently positioning organizations for long-term success.

A champion for the profession, Brian has made significant contributions through his leadership with the CPA Manitoba Foundation. Serving as Treasurer, Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair, he played a key role in shaping the Foundation's future. His involvement with CPA Manitoba's Member Recognition Program Committee and Conference Committee further reflects his commitment to advancing the profession.

Outside of his career achievements, Brian is deeply engaged in the community. An avid aviation enthusiast, he serves as Treasurer for the Winnipeg Flying Club, the Springfield Flying Club, the Experimental Aviation Association Chapter 63, and the Canadian Aviation Historical Society (Manitoba), ensuring financial sustainability for these organizations. His passion for service extends to search and rescue operations, where he volunteers with Civil Air Search and Rescue as a Search Coordinator, Pilot and Navigator. For over twenty years, Brian contributed to the Alpine Club of Canada, serving on the Manitoba Board and the National Audit and Finance Committee.

Brian has received multiple honours, including the Don Forrest Service Award from the Alpine Club of Canada, the Medal for Good Service from Scouts Canada and a nomination-only leadership course from The North Face. Brian leads with integrity and excellence in every aspect of his work and community involvement.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Christopher Kauenhofen, FCPA, FCA

A trusted leader in finance, governance, and professional ethics, Chris has been a dedicated team member of BDO Canada LLP for more than 28 years. As a Partner, he has built a reputation for providing strategic advice to entrepreneurial businesses across many industries in Manitoba, including agribusiness, Indigenous-owned enterprises, private equity, professional services, and manufacturing and distribution. Since 2019, Chris has been a key member of BDO's Manitoba Leadership Team. In this role, he continues to mentor the next generation of professionals while influencing the organization's strategic direction in Manitoba.

Beyond his leadership at BDO, Chris has been an instrumental volunteer for CPA Manitoba. He has over 15 years of service on committees, including the ICAM Professional Conduct Committee and the University Recruitment Committee, which reflect his deep commitment to maintaining the profession's highest standards. Since 2021, he has served as Chair of the CPA Manitoba Complaints Investigation Committee. Under his guidance, the committee has managed an increasing number of complex cases, ensuring accountability and trust within the profession and outwardly for protection of the public. His ability to navigate challenging cases with fairness and diligence is a testament to his indispensable leadership.



Chris has dedicated countless hours to strengthening nonprofit governance in the healthcare sector, serving as Treasurer of the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM) from 2015 to 2024. His financial leadership helped reshape CHRIM's governance and finance structure, ensuring the long-term sustainability of an institution managing over \$22 million in research activity annually. Noteworthy in his volunteer efforts is his involvement with the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba, a cause deeply personal to him as a former patient. He has also provided financial oversight to the John Buhler Research Centre Condominium Board, John Black Foundation, John Black Memorial United Church and AIESEC Manitoba.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions to the profession and community, Chris was presented with CPA Manitoba's Distinguished Service Award in 2022.

Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Jillian Lamothe, FCPA, FCA

From shaping financial strategies to enhancing student life, Jillian's impact extends far beyond numbers. Currently Deputy Head, Finance and Operations at St. John's-Ravenscourt School (SJR), she has served as the School's Chief Financial Officer since 1999. Managing a \$25M budget, a multi-building campus, and working with over 150 faculty and staff, she has led strategic initiatives that balance daily financial management with long-term planning. Her leadership has shaped financial policies, guided major construction projects, and strengthened scholarship and financial aid programs to support the school's continued success.

Before joining SJR, Jillian spent nearly a decade at St. Amant Centre Inc., where she played a pivotal role in expanding community-based programs for individuals with disabilities. She helped negotiate the first-ever Manitoba Government and General Employees Union contract for the organization's group home division and facilitated key funding agreements that enhanced educational and clinical support services.

Dedicated to advancing financial literacy, Jillian has delivered financial literacy sessions to nearly 700 high school students, equipping them with essential budgeting and money management skills as they transition to university. She also served on CPA Manitoba's Professional Conduct Committee and, early in her career, contributed as a UFE marker.

Her community service is equally impactful. From chairing the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools' Audit and Risk Committee to improving operations as Treasurer, President, and Chair at the Zig Zag Yacht Club, Jillian has strengthened multiple organizations through her financial expertise. At SJR, she actively engages with students, mentoring business case competition teams and spearheading fundraising initiatives, including a Habitat for Humanity project that raised over \$75,000. As a longtime member of the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools accreditation teams, she has helped shape best practices for independent schools across Canada. Her six-year tenure on the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools board further highlights her commitment to enhancing financial policies and funding structures for independent schools.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Lucy Szkwarek, FCPA, FCGA

For more than two decades, Lucy has played a vital role in shaping financial strategy and governance within the public sector. As Manager of Finance and Administration for the City of Winnipeg's Water and Waste Department, she oversees more than \$480 million in annual operating costs and multi-billion-dollar capital projects, ensuring the financial stability of one of the city's most critical services.

From providing executive leadership in the financial planning for the Winnipeg Sewage Treatment Program, one of the largest capital initiatives in the city's history, to spearheading the Advanced Water Metering Solution to enhance efficiency for over 220,000 account holders, Lucy is deeply involved in transformational projects that shape the future of Winnipeg's water, waste and diversion services. Trusted by elected officials, she provides financial insights that guide major policy decisions.

As an instructor at the University of Manitoba, she has shaped the next generation of financial professionals, earning a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedication to students. Her contributions to student success were also showcased through her participation on the CGA Manitoba Education Committee and as a student mentor and exam invigilator. In 2023, she joined the CPA Manitoba Member Recognition Program Ambassador Working Group which focuses on elevating and expanding the awards program.

A high-impact volunteer, Lucy currently holds the role of Board Chair for the Winnipeg Folk Festival and has helped the organization achieve record-breaking attendance and revenue while navigating governance improvements and executive transitions. She has also served on the boards of the Winnipeg Civic Employees Benefits Program, the Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers and contributed to research collaborations with the American Water Works Association. For over 31 years, she has served as a Commissioner for Oaths, designated under The Manitoba Evidence Act to take affidavits or declarations.

With a passion for financial stewardship and public service, Lucy continues to make a lasting impact on both her profession and her community.



Fellow CPA (FCPA)

Ann Ulusoy, FCPA, FCMA

Guiding financial decision-making at the highest levels of government, Ann has spent her career shaping fiscal strategy and accountability. With over 25 years of public sector financial leadership, she was appointed Secretary to the Treasury Board for the Province of Manitoba in 2021. In her current role, she provides financial oversight into the province's \$24 billion expenditure budget and \$3 billion annual capital infrastructure plan, ensuring financial decisions are grounded in rigorous analysis and strategic foresight. She also leads accounting and financial policy for the 129 entities that make up Manitoba's Government Reporting Entities. Notably, her development of a key accounting policy corrected a longstanding audit qualification, reinforcing Manitoba's commitment to sound financial management.

Before stepping into her current role, Ann served as Manitoba's Provincial Comptroller, where she spearheaded policy changes that enhanced financial transparency. Prior to that, she spent 14 years with the City of Toronto as Director of Management Services, driving financial strategies that enhanced efficiency and accountability across public service operations. She has also held executive financial roles in Ontario's healthcare and insurance sectors.

Collaboration is at the heart of her work. As a member of the Canadian Council of Comptrollers, she has worked alongside provincial and federal counterparts to advance public sector financial practices. She contributes to the Province of Manitoba's Treasury Board, a Cabinet Committee, Public Accounts Committee and Treasury Board Audit Committee, reinforcing financial governance. Recognizing the need for future financial leaders in government, she established a dedicated stream in the Leaders in Training Program to support CPA candidates, ensuring a strong pipeline of public sector accountants.

Ann has generously lent her time and skills to organizations such as the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre and the Lakeshore Arena Corporation, where she helped stabilize finances and enhance programming for these major public facilities. Ann is currently a volunteer member of PSAB's Cloud Computing Task Force.

Results, innovation, and accountability define Ann's career. Whether restructuring financial policies, guiding billion-dollar investments, or strengthening public institutions, her expertise continues to drive meaningful change.



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

Foster Lyle, CPA

From navigating complex financial landscapes to empowering communities through volunteerism, Foster has built a career that blends expertise with purpose. As Chief Financial Officer and Manager of Trading Operations at KAI Asset Management (KAM), Foster is at the forefront of financial strategy and governance, shaping the firm's growth and operational excellence.

Since joining KAM in 2020 as a Portfolio Analyst, the first in this role, Foster has been instrumental in streamlining trading operations, enhancing compliance structures, and driving governance initiatives and policies. His leadership and forward-thinking approach earned him a promotion to CFO in 2023, cementing his place as a trusted financial steward.

Prior to joining KAM, he built a strong foundation in investment operations, accounting, and risk management through key roles at Great-West Life Assurance Company (now Canada Life), Boone & Partners and MNP LLP. His dedication to professional development led him to earn his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation in 2021, further enhancing his ability to guide executive decision-making.

Beyond his professional achievements, Foster is a passionate advocate for financial literacy and community engagement. A dedicated volunteer with CPA Manitoba, he serves as Vice Chair of the Appeals Committee and has led numerous financial literacy sessions, including an impactful inaugural module for Indigenous students in Manitoba. His dedication to the nonprofit sector is evident in his work with organizations such as the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, Community Legal Education Association, Gaining Resources Our Way (G.R.O.W.), and Spark, where he was nominated for the Spark Outstanding Pro Bono Award for his contributions to various community organizations.



Early Achievement Award

Tiffany Mohr-Bailey, CPA

Tiffany's journey in the profession is one of resilience, leadership, and deep community roots. Raised in Northern Manitoba, she understands the unique challenges and opportunities that come with living in a tight-knit, evolving community. It's this understanding, combined with her sharp financial acumen, that has made her a trusted leader in both her profession and hometown.

Her career has taken her through both public practice and industry, each step shaping her into the dynamic professional she is today. Tiffany first built her expertise at Kendall & Pandya Chartered Professional Accountants before joining Hudbay Minerals as a Financial Analyst, where she navigated the fast-paced demands of the mining industry. When Baker Tilly HMA LLP acquired Kendall & Pandya in 2022, she re-entered public practice, quickly earning the trust of staff, clients and firm partners. Recognizing her expertise and ability to lead, the firm positioned her at the helm of its Flin Flon practice. In 2023, she returned to Hudbay Minerals as Assistant Controller, embracing the opportunity to drive financial strategy in a critical industry.

Beyond her professional success, Tiffany is a pillar in her community, using her financial acumen to strengthen local organizations. She served as Treasurer for the Flin Flon Arts Council and Northern Growing Abilities, and currently serves as a Director on the Flin Flon Credit Union and Community Futures Greenstone boards. As Flin Flon faces economic transition, Tiffany is at the forefront, balancing her career and community service with unwavering dedication.



Early Achievement Award

Zachary Robert, CPA, CA

With a career shaped by technical excellence, strategic leadership, and a drive to empower others, Zach has consistently made a lasting impact, both in his industry and community.

His journey began as a co-op student at Deloitte, where he later earned a place on the National Honour Roll for the 2014 UFE and received the James W. Clarke, FCPA, FCA Award. Rising swiftly to Assistant Manager, Audit, he led multiple audit teams and the onboarding process for new employees.

In 2017, Zach transitioned to industry as the Controller of a local manufacturing company before returning to Deloitte as Manager, Audit in 2018. In 2020, he joined Cando Rail & Terminals as Director of Finance, immersing himself in field operations and their intersection with finance, delivering a transformative impact. He built relationships with frontline staff, gaining critical insights that allowed him to tailor financial processes to better support the business and drove key initiatives, such as modernizing financial reporting and implementing new systems. Zach played a critical role in Cando's sale to AIMCo, helping secure a record valuation for the company. Now, as Assistant Vice President of Finance, he continues to shape Cando's growth strategy, supporting major acquisitions, securing new methods of financing and building a team designed to support the company's future.

Zach's dedication to mentorship and community service remains unwavering. As the Treasurer for Artspace Inc. from 2015-2022, he strengthened financial controls and improved governance policies, ensuring the organization's long-term stability. His continued support for aspiring CPAs through mentorship and training initiatives has helped guide the next generation of leaders.



Early Achievement Award

Jonathan Taylor, CPA, CA

Jonathan's career is defined by curiosity, innovation and a strong commitment to excellence. He joined KPMG in 2011 as an Audit Staff Accountant and quickly rose through the ranks, earning promotions to Manager in 2015 and Senior Manager in 2017.

He has carved out a reputation for handling some of the firm's most complex audits, providing trusted financial advice to private businesses and guiding clients through strategic decisions. But his impact extends far beyond client work. As the former leader of KPMG Winnipeg's UFE and CFE programs, Jonathan played a pivotal role in helping students achieve consistent success; a reflection of his dedication to mentoring the next generation of accounting professionals. He also contributes as a member of KPMG's Audit Support Professionals Group.

Driven by innovation, Jonathan joined the inaugural cohort of KPMG's Digital University Program at Simon Fraser University, earning a Graduate Certificate in Accounting with Data Analytics. In 2021, he further enhanced his expertise by completing a Master of Science in Accounting with Cognitive Analytics, blending traditional accounting principles with advanced data insights.

To give back to the profession, he serves on the CPA Manitoba Registration Committee, assisting with registration matters and compliance with regulatory standards. His expertise is also recognized through frequent presentations at KPMG professional development events and internal training sessions on innovation, regulatory updates and changes to audit methodology.

Equally committed to his community, Jonathan most recently served as a board member and Treasurer for the West End Cultural Centre, helping guide one of Winnipeg's most vital arts organizations.



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

Ainsley Donald, CPA, CA

Driven by a deep commitment to service, Ainsley has spent over two decades strengthening organizations and empowering individuals through her financial expertise and mentorship.

As Treasurer of the Deer Lodge Centre Foundation, she guided the organization through transformative milestones, including facilitating its largest-ever gift and introducing cost-saving measures that enhanced financial stability. During her tenure with United Way Winnipeg, Ainsley provided invaluable leadership as Treasurer, a Board member, and a long-serving member of the Finance and Administration Committee. Her strategic insights also improved budgeting, cash flow management, and fundraising outcomes for organizations such as Balmoral Hall School Foundation and Local Investment Toward Employment.

A passionate mentor, Ainsley has coached over 60 CPA students through her roles at Deloitte LLP and other firms. As an Instructor at the Asper School of Business, she has inspired more than 1,000 accounting students, equipping them with the skills to excel.

In 2024, Ainsley launched Ainsley Donald Chartered Professional Accountant, a practice dedicated to providing audit and financial reporting services to charities and nonprofits.

Ainsley's unwavering dedication to giving back has allowed her to make a meaningful and lasting impact on her community.



Distinguished Service Award

Kathleen Gerber, CPA

In her five years since joining the profession, Kathleen has showcased a passion for service, advocacy and mentorship.

As the National CPA Program Leader at Canada Life, Kathleen has guided countless CPA candidates and recent graduates, offering invaluable mentorship that empowers them to succeed. Drawing from her own CPA journey, she has expanded the program's reach and strengthened its impact, earning admiration from students and colleagues alike. Under her leadership, the program has flourished, gaining a reputation for its exceptional support.

Kathleen has also contributed to the Canada Life Young Professionals Diversity Group and the Canada Life Professional Development Planning Committee. Through these roles, she has created meaningful learning opportunities and advocated for diversity and inclusion in her workplace.

Her commitment to empowering others extends far beyond her professional role. As a CPA Manitoba Foundation Board member, she actively works to eliminate financial barriers for aspiring CPAs. Her contributions while on the Audit Committee ensure sound governance, while her role with the Student Support Committee helps students access the resources they need to thrive.

Whether mentoring future leaders, strengthening nonprofit organizations, or inspiring students through career events and speaking engagements, Kathleen's impact is far-reaching and deeply personal. Her tireless efforts to support the next generation of CPAs have created a long-lasting impact on the profession.



Distinguished Service Award

Michael Ly, CPA, CA

Michael's leadership is defined by vision, resilience, and a deep dedication to empowering communities. He has lived and worked in the community since 2013 and has served as Chief Financial Officer of Norway House Cree Nation (NHCN) since 2018.

As CFO of NHCN, Michael helped the Nation get out of co-management; established a 10-year grant relationship with Indigenous Services Canada and led the Nation in obtaining certification from the First Nations Finance Authority. He helped eliminate education debt of \$13 million and secured over \$200 million of vital funding for major projects like the Health Centre of Excellence. His strategic guidance has transformed the Nation's financial outlook to foster economic growth and stability.

Inspired by his commitment to supporting Indigenous communities, Michael founded HLL Consulting to build trust and foster partnerships with First Nations clients. Under his leadership, the company has grown into a leading financial consulting practice in Canada.

Mentorship has been a cornerstone of Michael's career. As a CPA Western School of Business mentor, he has guided aspiring accountants, many of whom have advanced to leadership roles.

Beyond his professional accolades, Michael's dedication to sustainable development and social responsibility shines through. From revitalizing the Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency to partnering with Bison Modular Homes to deliver innovative housing solutions for NHCN, his work has been pivotal in supporting Indigenous communities in reaching their goals. He is a strong example of how CPAs can contribute to economic reconciliation.



Distinguished Service Award

Shannon Magnusson, CPA, CA

Empowering future leaders, strengthening organizations, and driving positive change have defined Shannon's distinguished 25-year career.

For seven years, she served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for FortWhyte Alive, where her leadership enhanced governance practices, streamlined financial operations and supported capital projects, leaving a lasting mark on the organization's growth and impact.

Today, Shannon serves on the Board and Finance Committee for Habitat for Humanity Manitoba, where she contributes to fundraising efforts, participates in Build Days, and helps guide financial decisions that support building affordable housing for families in need. As Treasurer on the Board for Family Dynamics, she oversees financial practices for programs that provide vital support to Manitoba families. Her commitment to the community also extends to healthcare as a Stewardship Committee member for Seven Oaks General Hospital and Wellness Centre, where she offers financial oversight and guidance.

A devoted mentor, Shannon spent over two decades at KPMG LLP as a Performance Manager and People Leader, guiding aspiring CPAs and helping them excel. Her impact extends to Indigenous students through the CPA Canada Mentorship Program for Indigenous Students and as an ally in KPMG's National Indigenous Peoples Network, where she supports Indigenous students pursuing careers in business.

As Chair of the CPA Manitoba Appeals Committee, Shannon upholds fairness and accountability in the appeals process, reinforcing the profession's standards and maintaining regulatory oversight with compassion and integrity.



Distinguished Service Award

Peter Smith, CPA, CA

With a natural talent for leadership, Peter has played an influential role in shaping institutions and driving meaningful change.

His work with the Credit Institute of Canada is a testament to his ability to inspire progress. As National Director, Vice President, and Chair of the Governance Committee, Peter brought his energy to the organization, working with a diverse team to modernize governance processes and strengthen membership engagement.

His leadership at St. Paul's College Board was equally significant, where, as Treasurer, Chair, and now Past Chair, he worked collaboratively with directors and managers to help improve financial reporting, manage complex tax matters and uphold balanced budgets - all crucial steps in stewarding the College's mission to students as the only Catholic college in Manitoba.

Peter demonstrated his skills as a leader by his ability to mobilize teams in his role as a political organizer and campaign manager, where he has led multiple federal and provincial campaigns, coordinating hundreds of volunteers with focus and precision.

For over 25 years, Peter has inspired students as a Career Day presenter, sharing insights and encouraging high school students to explore careers in accounting.

His commitment to community service is showcased in his work with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada Foundation and The Intrepid Society. As Treasurer, his financial expertise contributed to the success of major initiatives, including a \$400,000 monument at Vimy Ridge Park in Winnipeg that honoured Canada's military history and earned widespread recognition.



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