

MEMBER PROFILE



TYLER CLEGG, CPA

BUSINESS MANAGER

PARKWEST PROJECTS LTD.



Tyler Clegg, CPA, was raised in Oak Bluff, Manitoba. Before beginning his career as a CPA, he once worked as a labourer for a construction company. During that time, little did he know that through education and determination, he would find his way to Parkwest Projects Ltd., a general contracting firm owned by his family.

“The designation can truly take you in any direction you choose.”

“Having gone through university and the CPA Professional Education Program (PEP), it’s been gratifying to be in a position where I can contribute in a meaningful and productive way. I always hoped to find a way back to the family business, but I had no idea it would look like this.”

Clegg graduated from St. Paul’s High School in 2010 and attended the University of Manitoba (U of M) the following autumn. Shortly after completing his first year, he entered the Asper School of Business. During his time there, Clegg

enjoyed accounting and business courses and volunteered with the Commerce Students’ Association (CSA). At CSA, he took on the role of Manager, Corporate Relations in the 2012-2013 school year and then Vice President, Operations the following year.

“My time with the CSA was an enriching experience. Even four years after my time there, I still attend events held by current students. It’s an excellent opportunity to meet people and hopefully I’ve inspired them like I was during my time there,” says Clegg.

In 2013, while in school and volunteering for the CSA, he accepted a summer internship at KPMG as a Staff Accountant. A few months after graduating from the U of M in 2015, his role evolved into a full-time position. In October 2017, he was promoted to Senior Accountant until he left the firm in mid 2018.

“One of the highlights of working at KPMG was getting to meet a wide variety of clients, which resulted in diverse and interesting work. It was a great opportunity to have so much

exposure to different industries and businesses during my time,” says Clegg.

For Clegg, obtaining the CPA designation was fueled by his determination to succeed.

“With what I learned at the U of M and some hard work, I knew I could succeed in the CPA PEP. I was very fortunate to have graduated with university friends who were also going straight into their CPA PEP studies. We were together throughout the process, including studying for the Common Final Examination (CFE). It was great to ask questions and have that support when others around me didn’t know what I was going through.”

Clegg successfully passed the CFE in December 2017 and was admitted to membership as a CPA upon successful completion of practical experience requirements in July 2018. Shortly after, he moved from KPMG to join Parkwest Projects, where they have helped build a variety of commercial buildings across Manitoba and Northern Ontario, such as primary schools and water treatment buildings.

“I spent the first three months working at Parkwest Projects shadowing various individuals in all departments to get an in-depth sense of what each person works on and how they contribute to the company. What I learned was far more than I could have imagined and that enabled me to gain clarity of how I could help,” says Clegg.

In his role as Business Manager, he splits his time by working externally in business development and working internally on ways the company can perform more efficiently.

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“The best way to describe my position is that I do a real-life CPA Capstone One case every day. I strategize and figure out what is the most efficient and valuable outcome for the organization. The goal is for our projects to be as time and cost efficient as possible without sacrificing quality.”

The Capstone One module is part of the CPA PEP, where candidates are required to work in teams on a case study and present their observations, findings and final assessment. The module teaches candidates the soft skills necessary to excel in their future careers, such as communication and teamwork.

“No day looks the same, but there are constants to how I approach my role. In the mornings, I evaluate potential projects with members of our management team. Then, in the afternoon, I’m either writing business proposals or I’m analyzing the business, identifying improvements and monitoring the changes in place. The numbers often tell their own story, so it provides me with great value to quantifiably see changes and progress in the short time I’ve been at the company.”

Clegg took the time to speak about the benefits of being a CPA in his position and how it’s helped him have a more significant impact.

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“Coming from a public accounting perspective to working in financial management and analyzing the numbers in this business clearly showed me how versatile the designation is. It’s already been rewarding to work at Parkwest Projects because I’ve seen firsthand how my skills are valuable – I feel like an asset to the family business thanks to my designation,” says Clegg.

His advice to future CPAs revolves around recognizing the limitless possibilities that the CPA designation can provide.

“The recent CPA advertising campaigns that talk about all the different possibilities that being a CPA can provide really resonated with me. I’ve learned that it’s all true! When you choose to work towards your CPA, where you go after getting your designation is up to you. You’re not obligated to stay in one place because the designation can truly take you in any direction you choose.”