

# Celebrating Excellence

## 2022 HONOUREES

Early Achievement | Fellowship | Lifetime Achievement



**CPA**

CHARTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
ACCOUNTANTS  
BRITISH COLUMBIA





# Celebrating Excellence

Meet our 2022  
Member Recognition  
Honourees



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### Congratulations!

As CPABC's chair, I am delighted to recognize the 2022-23 Member Recognition honourees whose accomplishments are profiled in this supplement.

These members possess a wealth of diverse experience, are experts in different industries, and continue to be the discerning voice in matters that affect numerous organizations. They are truly making a difference through their outstanding leadership and volunteerism – making a positive impact in the community, with businesses, and in the accounting profession.

Every year comes with its own challenges and changes, but with change comes growth. The members we are celebrating have all guided their organizations and clients to grow and build resilience in our ever-changing environment. By honouring these CPAs, we are reminded of just what our members are able to achieve. They have adhered to the highest standards and demonstrated excellence, dedication, and innovation.

On behalf of the CPABC board of directors, congratulations to each of the honourees!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sheila Nelson, CPA, CA  
CPABC Chair





## PROGRAM OF EVENTS

- ★ Opening Remarks
- ★ CPABC Chair's Address
- ★ Early Achievement Award
- ★ Fellows (PART ONE)
- ★ Fellows (PART TWO)
- ★ Lifetime Achievement Award
- ★ Concluding Remarks

# Early Achievement **AWARD**

The CPABC Early Achievement Award celebrates members who distinguish themselves early in their CPA career through professional achievement and/or volunteer service.





Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Wrote the bestselling book *Canada 150 Women*, celebrating women leaders, that is used as a school textbook across Canada.
- Recognized with *The Globe and Mail's* Changemakers Award (2022) honouring emerging leaders and *Business in Vancouver's* Forty Under 40 (2020).
- Co-founded and led Young Women in Business, a leadership organization for young women entrepreneurs, which she grew from 25 to over 15,000 members.

## Paulina Cameron, CPA, CA

Paulina is the high-achieving and progressive CEO of The Forum, a Canadian charity supporting women entrepreneurs. Since 2019, she has greatly expanded its reach from 440 to 1,600 entrepreneurs, boosted its programming, and doubled its funding. She had an equally striking impact at Futurpreneur Canada (2013-2018), where she expanded the community of young entrepreneurs accessing capital by 150%.

Since obtaining her designation in 2012, Paulina has become a widely respected thought leader, creating and teaching an Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Innovation course at SFU's Beedie School of Business in 2017. She champions gender diversity and women's empowerment through popular speaking engagements, including for the League of Innovators and BC Tech Summit.

Paulina also fosters strong communities as a volunteer, shaping the vision and mission of YWCA Metro Vancouver as a board director, and promoting a robust and resilient economy as a director of the BC government's Small Business Roundtable and as past chair of the Immigrant Employment Council of BC.

*"Paulina has turned her passion for uplifting her peers into a career that makes a tangible difference in the lives of women and entrepreneurs across Canada."*

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Brandi Wingrove,  
CPA, CA

Partner  
KPMG ENTERPRISE



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Provides strategic financial leadership to navigate the City through current challenges, while also forecasting for the next 100 years to ensure financial stability.
- Leads the funding and financial reporting for the City's major projects, including the largest in its history: a new wastewater treatment plant.
- Guided Catalyst Paper's Opportunities for Improvement Program, producing savings of \$10 million in its first year alone.

## Mallory Denniston, CPA, CA

Mallory is CFO for the City of Powell River, providing strategic financial leadership, guiding finances for large civic projects, and introducing systems that improve efficiency, transparency, and engagement. A trusted voice by the mayor, council, staff, and residents, she has expertly navigated the financial challenges of aging infrastructure amid supply chain issues, inflation, rising interest rates, and changing economic drivers.

Mallory improved City accountability and transparency through comprehensive and accessible public presentations, which expanded online engagement and in-person consultation. She also championed innovation in adopting best practices for the City's financial, HR, and enterprise resource planning systems.

After obtaining her designation in 2013, Mallory worked for Catalyst Paper before joining the City in 2017. Her public profile—through dedicated public engagement and media appearances—has raised the visibility of the profession.

She also gives back as a coach for women's hockey and a director-at-large for the Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society, which supports marrow transplant patients, helping the organization achieve its mission and strategic direction.

*“Mallory exemplifies leadership at an organizational, professional, and community level to which everyone can aspire and from which one gains inspiration for personal and professional development, public service, and commitment to community.”*

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Russell Brewer

Chief Public Affairs Officer  
MÉTIS NATION  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Champions ESG and the role CPAs play as an event speaker, including with the Association of Women in Finance.
- Serves as KPMG Vancouver’s first impact manager—formalizing its community and impact strategy, leading community partnerships, and supporting colleagues’ extracurricular passions.
- Mentored young women on career decisions, networking, and business with Young Women in Business (2018-2021).

## Jocelyn Li, CPA

Jocelyn is a manager in the ESG and sustainability services group at KPMG in Vancouver. A dynamic ESG expert, she drives business success—guiding clients to develop and implement ESG strategies, frameworks, reporting, and assurance, and identifying ways that ESG can create long-term value. Also an impact manager, she leads team recruitment, training, and performance-management initiatives.

In 2021, Jocelyn led a first-of-its-kind engagement, advising a banking client on their adoption of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Banking (UNPRB) framework; she’s now KPMG’s subject matter expert on UNPRB in Canada. She’s also one of only 14 members of a UN global working group, providing insights on UNPRB from an assurance provider’s perspective.

Jocelyn obtained her designation in 2018, and since 2021 has inspired students at the Sauder School of Business, where as an adjunct professor she brings accounting courses to life with expertise and enthusiasm. She extends that passion to volunteerism with PentaSport Ministries, a not-for-profit sports league where she provides financial leadership.

*“In her recruitment, mentoring, volunteering, and speaking activities, and as an adjunct professor at UBC Sauder, Jocelyn educates and inspires and gives a fresh and vibrant visibility to the CPA designation and profession.”*

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Walter R. Pela,  
FCPA, FCA  
Regional Managing Partner  
KPMG LLP



# Fellowship

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





Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Drove innovative success at Ritchie Bros., whose valuation grew tenfold to \$3 billion during his tenure.
- Champions climate-change strategies as Coast Capital's chair (2016-present), leading the credit union to join the Net-Zero Banking Alliance.
- Inspires generations of CPAs and future CPAs through his community leadership and his engaging advocacy at industry conferences (1998-2019).

## Robert (Bob) Armstrong, FCPA, FCA

Bob is a sought-after board director and finance mentor advocating for climate-change action and responsible business development as board chair of Coast Capital Savings Federal Credit Union.

From 1997 to 2014, Bob provided groundbreaking leadership at Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers, where he helmed numerous transformational initiatives. In executive roles including CFO and COO, he led Ritchie Bros.' IPO and oversaw the pioneering expansion into online auctions. Bob was also a trusted advisor to Traction on Demand from 2015 to 2019, helping the award-winning application developers successfully scale up.

Bob launched his career at KPMG in 1985 and has provided inspired mentorship to up-and-coming CPAs ever since, including with CPABC's Mentorship Program.

In his community, Bob has served as a director and chair of the Chris Spencer Foundation for over two decades, strengthening board diversity to support the Foundation's efforts to fund youth-oriented charities. As treasurer with Ballet BC since 2019, he has improved financial management processes and increased the organization's financial sustainability. And he is particularly passionate about his continuing, decades-long volunteerism with the not-for-profit Crescent Beach Swimming Club, where as president (2016-2017) he initiated a capital campaign that raised \$1 million for the renovation of the club's facilities.

*"Bob embraced and led the critically innovative digital transformation that impacted the entire industry. He was instrumental in evolving the company's strategy to enter the digital world and to lead the pace of change."*

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Peter J. Blake,  
FCPA, FCA  
Past CEO  
RITCHIE BROS.  
AUCTIONEERS





Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Redesigned the finance function and built new reporting processes as Aritzia's CFO.
- As CEO of Hold It All Inc., rationalized operations and built a robust operational and governance structure to support the growth of the business.
- Championed fundraising for the community as co-chair of the cabinet of United Way British Columbia in 2012, ultimately raising \$24 million.

## Warren Beach, FCPA, FCA

A distinguished and sought-after leader, Warren has helmed some of British Columbia's most significant companies – Glenayre Manufacturing, Sauder Industries, Sierra Systems, TimberWest, Aritzia, and Hold It All Inc. He is currently the chief strategy and innovation officer at Odlum Brown Ltd., responsible for developing and executing the firm's strategic planning efforts.

Warren has also vigorously advocated for the profession for many years—participating in CPABC's branding campaign in 2015 and sharing his knowledge as a mentor for over three decades.

Throughout his career, Warren has been very active in his community. He currently gives back as a board director with the BC Parks Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club of South Coast BC, where he leads the board in identifying strategic priorities. He is also a member of the UBC Gold For Life Committee, supporting rowing at UBC, and a member of Alumni UBC's Advisory Council and Finance and Audit Committee. Previously, he served as board vice-chair with BC Women's Health Foundation, leading fundraising and strategic planning processes (2014-2021), and served for seven years on the cabinet of United Way British Columbia, including as cabinet co-chair (2011-2012).

*“Never one to shy away from tough conversations, Warren has and uses the unique ability to explore the most important issues in order to come to strategic decisions.”*

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Carolyn Tuckwell

President and CEO  
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB  
OF SOUTH COAST BC



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Leveraged her financial expertise to support scaling Telus' fibre network project from \$200 million to over \$6 billion.
- Provided critical insights into professional development as a member of CPA Canada's *Foresight: Reimagining the Profession* initiative in 2020.
- Mentors women at Telus and with Dress for Success, where she supports women immigrants in advancing their careers.

## Gopi Chande, FCPA, FCA

Gopi has personified excellence throughout her career, bringing her financial acumen and collaborative leadership skills to Telus in 2009. Now senior vice president and treasurer, she drives an innovation mindset within the company's treasury, investor relations, M&A, pension, and sustainability teams. Gopi has also had a powerful impact on Telus' culture as a pioneering force in diversity and inclusion, serving as an executive sponsor of Telus' Women in Finance and Finance Inclusion Squad initiatives. Previously, Gopi was a senior manager at KPMG in Vancouver, Silicon Valley, and Budapest, guiding clients on complex financial matters. She also served as controller at E2open, overseeing the global expansion of this Silicon Valley software-as-a-service startup.

Within the profession, Gopi has inspired CPAs as a mentor since 2000 and has contributed to CPA Canada's Accounting for Sustainability Group since 2019.

A dedicated volunteer, she shares her business acumen as board chair at Mulgrave School (2011-present). Her keen insights on finance and governance have also benefited BC Women's Health Foundation (2022-present) and the North Vancouver District Public Library Board (2013-2015), where as a trustee she implemented financial reporting and governance frameworks that continue to strengthen the library's operations.

*"Gopi has distinguished herself as a steward of our business, supporting a variety of areas and significant investments in Telus' growth. Her depth of business and industry knowledge is unparalleled, and her financial acumen and guidance is instrumental in driving growth and diversification."*

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Doug French, FCPA, FCA  
Executive Vice President &  
Chief Financial Officer  
TELUS



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Championed equity, diversity and inclusion at Beanworks by establishing a diversity and inclusion mandate.
- Recognized for leadership and business acumen in 2019 as one of BC's Most Influential Women in Finance by *BCBusiness*.
- Provided strategic leadership for Coast Mental Health's expansion and growth plans as a board member and treasurer (2016-2019).

## Catherine Dahl, FCPA, FCMA

Catherine served as co-founder and CEO of Beanworks by Quadient, an accounting automation company, from 2012 until retiring in 2023. She grew revenue at Beanworks from \$250,000 in 2012 to over \$8 million by 2021, and expanded its workforce from six to over 140 full-time employees. Catherine also raised millions of dollars in venture capital, rebuilt Beanwork's platform, and negotiated its 2021 sale to Quadient for over \$110 million.

Catherine is a renowned innovator. As finance manager at CBC (2006-2008), she helped synergize news programming by combining TV, radio, and digital services. She streamlined accounting functions at Grey Worldwide, where she was a business manager (2004-2006), and rebuilt cash flow as business manager at the Italian Cultural Centre (2000-2004), ensuring its long-term success. A testament to her leadership, in 2020 she was named to StartUp Beat's 20 Under 50 Female Leaders in Tech.

For two decades, Catherine has advocated for women in the profession and shared her deep knowledge by writing for outlets such as *CPA Practice Advisor* and *The Globe and Mail*. She also provides strategic leadership as a board member and treasurer for Acetech, a not-for-profit organization supporting BC's tech companies.

*"Catherine is a fierce advocate and will be in your corner, often putting in longer hours, helping you to have a more powerful voice, and always keeping the vision in very clear focus."*

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Monica Murray, CPA, CA  
Founder  
CARATT



Photo by Chung Chow

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Has held five significant leadership roles within PwC, increasing revenue and profitability and creating advancement and partnership opportunities for others.
- Recognized in 2019 as one of BC's Most Influential Women in Finance by *BCBusiness* and as one of BC's Influential Women in Business by *Business in Vancouver*.
- Championed equity through the launch of PwC's Women in Leadership program, dedicated to attracting, retaining, and promoting female talent, and mentored many of PwC's current female partners and directors.

## Kate Furber, FCPA, FCA

Kate is PwC's vice chair and managing partner, BC region. For over 25 years, she has excelled in vital roles within the firm, including for the BC region: assurance leader; private company leader; and technology, media, entertainment and consumer markets leader. With her guidance, each group increased revenue and profitability.

Admitted to partnership in 2007, Kate has led PwC initiatives around employee recognition, meaningful work, and career development — which has increased team engagement, quality review results, and firm profitability. In 2019, she was appointed to PwC Canada's board, chairing the People and Partnership Committee and guiding its rollout of a new partner accountability framework.

Kate has also significantly raised the visibility of the CPA profession and has advanced member knowledge as an author and speaker with CPABC.

A committed volunteer, she served as a board director with Canuck Place Children's Hospice (2012-2018), as Audit Committee chair and as the chair of the building task force, overseeing construction of a second palliative care home in Abbotsford. Since 2010, she has lent her expertise to the advancement of women by presenting at events including #movethedial, WNORTH, and We For She.

*“Seeing that women weren’t making it to leadership positions at the same rate as men, Kate drove change. She supported women to build the critical skills and experience needed to demonstrate readiness for partnership, and through support of maternity leaves, flexible work arrangements, and empowering them to overcome challenges.”*

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Elisabeth Finch,  
Jessica Macht, CPA, CA,  
and Paulina Prokop,  
CPA, CA

Partners  
PwC



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- In response to COVID-19, successfully secured \$500 million in additional financing for Finning International and assured investors, rating agencies, and other key stakeholders.
- Played a critical governance and leadership role for the Royal Inland Hospital Foundation as director, treasurer, and chair of its Finance, Investment and Audit Committee for a fundraising campaign to build a new hospital tower.
- Named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 by WXN (2018).

## Amanda Hobson, FCPA, FCA

An experienced finance executive and director with a diverse background in both the public and private sectors, Amanda is an authentic leader and a strong advocate for sustainability. As senior vice president of investor relations and treasury for Finning International (2019-2023) and an active member of its Sustainability Committee, Amanda led the renewal of a \$1.3-billion global credit facility as a sustainability-linked loan, one of the first in the industry.

Also a director for BC Hydro and its energy marketing and trading subsidiary Powerex, Amanda supports the delivery of affordable clean energy to more than four million people in BC.

Amanda gives back through CPABC's Mentorship Program and has been actively involved in her community as a board director for the Royal Inland Hospital Foundation and the Dean's Advisory Council for Thompson Rivers University's Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics.

A testament to her exceptional leadership, she was named one of BC's Most Influential Women in Finance by *BCBusiness* (2019) and BC CFO of the Year in the Emerging Leader category by *Business in Vancouver* (2017).

*"The contribution of Amanda's expertise and education not only created a culture of enhanced accountability within the Foundation, it also enhanced public confidence in the organization and created a sustainable internal process that will benefit donors, recipients and Foundation staff for years to come."*

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Kerri D. Priddle

Barrister and Solicitor  
PROFESSOR OF ETHICS,  
THOMPSON RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY, FACULTY  
OF LAW

Chair  
ROYAL INLAND HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Co-founded and grew the accounting firm Cameron Izard Snell LLP from three partners to five partners and over 30 staff.
- Facilitated significant growth for client Starfish Medical—guiding acquisitions, and navigating complex tax issues and a \$100-million federal contract.
- Assisted Pacific Institute for Sport Education to achieve charitable status and raise \$1.2 million for a new track.

## Angus Izard, FCPA, FCA, FCGA

Widely respected for his technical skills and people-focused leadership, Angus is a founding partner of the Victoria accounting firm Cameron Izard Snell LLP and a key contributor to its outstanding client service and community involvement.

Angus was previously a senior manager with Deloitte and KPMG, where he focused his expertise on cross-border personal tax and business advisory services. Throughout his career, he has been respected for an exceptional ability to listen to clients' unique challenges and offer clear solutions. He has also mentored many future CPAs, providing them with invaluable client-centred experience.

For 30-plus years, Angus has volunteered his skills to a variety of organizations, including spearheading major reporting improvements as treasurer with the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (2001-2006), securing funding for an adult workplace learning program and a reading program for underprivileged children as treasurer with the Victoria Read Society (2007-2012), and guiding investments as a board director with Victoria Hospitals Foundation (2013-2019). He has also served with the Sovereign Order of St. John and coached youth soccer and lacrosse. Angus is currently treasurer with the Victoria Hospice Society, providing financial and management guidance.

*“Angus’ list of strengths is extensive, but he demonstrates two characteristics that are truly exceptional. First, I’ve never known a professional as dedicated to client service as he is. Second, his commitment to community service is astounding.”*

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Mike Zelen, CPA, CA



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Led SouthGobi’s expansion from six employees and a market capitalization of \$35 million to 520 employees and a \$2.6-billion valuation.
- Developed a strategic business plan and financing initiatives to increase sales by 100% at Maynards, where he was CFO.
- Guided construction of two new buildings that provide housing, health, education, and arts services to homeless youth as a member of Covenant House Vancouver’s board of directors, Special Projects Committee chair, and Fundraising Committee member (2012-2021).

## Terry Krepiakevich, FCPA, FCA

Terry contributes his extensive finance expertise as a sought-after board director. Prior to retiring, he was CFO of coal miner SouthGobi Resources Ltd. (2006-2011), helping lead its 2010 IPO. He also oversaw SouthGobi’s listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the company’s 2009 transition from Canadian GAAP to IFRS standards, making it one of the first Canadian companies to do so. Recognized for this groundbreaking work, Terry received a 2011 BC CFO of the Year Award from *Business in Vancouver*. He subsequently played an invaluable role in educating accountants on critical elements of the IFRS transition.

Terry has been the financial linchpin of many BC firms, including Mindell Holdings (1982-1988) and Maynards Industries (1988-2000). From 2000 to 2006, he was CFO of Extreme CCTV Inc., a surveillance technology manufacturer. There, he led strategic corporate finance, joint technology initiatives, and merger and acquisition opportunities, positioning it as a market leader.

Terry has shared his wisdom with community organizations since 1995, including as a campaign member with Arts Umbrella. He has meaningfully advanced organizational, fundraising, and building development initiatives, and in 2015 received Arts Umbrella’s Community Achievement Award for his family’s significant contributions.

*“From the expertise he brought to the board of directors as a respected business leader with his forward-thinking and strategic discussions, to his dedicated leadership and support of our expansion project, Terry works tirelessly to improve Covenant House Vancouver’s ability to serve young people with unconditional love and absolute respect.”*

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Allan Seckel  
Board Chair  
COVENANT HOUSE  
VANCOUVER



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Recognized for her exceptional instructional abilities with the SFU Excellence in Teaching Award (2012).
- Removes education barriers for students and enriches their educational opportunities as a long-time donor to SFU student awards.
- Has inspired thousands of SFU Beedie students, including many who have gone on to become CPAs and attribute their career choice to the inspiration Anne provided.

## Anne Macdonald, FCPA, FCA

Anne is a senior lecturer in the accounting discipline at SFU's Beedie School of Business. An impeccable and enthusiastic educator, she has had a singularly positive impact on SFU Beedie and its students. Remarkably, she has taught multiple instances of almost every course in the accounting concentration, teaching approximately two out of every three SFU Beedie graduates since 2004. And for most of her tenure, she has been named to SFU Beedie's Teaching Honour Roll, recognizing faculty in the top 10% of all instructors.

Anne has strengthened more than 10 SFU boards and committees, including as chair of the SFU Beedie Teaching Effectiveness Committee. She's widely respected by peers for her range, diversity, and depth of contributions to the accounting field and for continually sharing her time, energy, and resources with students and SFU Beedie. And she offers a well-rounded perspective, with teaching experience in universities in Hong Kong and China (1991-1997) and in public practice at KPMG (1984-1990).

Anne works tirelessly to advance the profession. Since 2002, she has provided coaching and student support for case competitions such as JDC West — helping young people strengthen their business and academic skills.

*“Anne has not only positively impacted an incredible number of students, but she has also inspired them with a love of accounting.”*

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Ujwal Kayande

Dean

BEEDIE SCHOOL OF  
BUSINESS, SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY





Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Provided technical, strategic, and people-focused leadership with the Office of the Auditor General of BC.
- Contributed to unification of the accounting profession through exceptional service as a member of the Transitional Steering Committee (2012-2014).
- Led United Way Southern Vancouver Island through COVID-19, hired a new CEO, and spearheaded digital and technological advances as chair.

## Michael (Mike) Macdonell, FCPA, FCA

Mike is a pioneering force in public governance, serving as the City of Vancouver’s inaugural Auditor General since 2021.

He is widely esteemed for making outstanding contributions that move organizations forward. While providing advisory services to the Auditor General for Local Government on technical and engagement quality control review (2013-2021), he ensured success in completing audits and best practice resources, enabled performance improvements, and developed and delivered critical skills and training courses. As a business advisor to MNP LLP (2013-2018), he drove expansion into new markets and areas of practice.

With the Office of the Auditor General of BC (1990-2013), Mike progressed to Assistant Auditor General. His leadership included innovating agile micro-audits, advancing budgeting and performance reporting, and bolstering transparency, collaboration, effective communication, and external relations.

For over a decade, Mike has made generous and strategic contributions to the profession, including as first vice chair with CPABC’s Victoria/Southern Vancouver Island Chapter (2015-2021), a member of CPABC’s Public Practice Committee, and a board member and treasurer with his legacy organization.

He also generously lends his expertise within his community, including serving with United Way Southern Vancouver Island for 20 years.

*“As board chair, Mike stood out by setting an example in the critical area of community impact and in direct fundraising. His sage counsel on fiduciary issues proved highly beneficial, as did his generous community work and excellent leadership.”*

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Mark Breslauer

Past CEO

UNITED WAY SOUTHERN  
VANCOUVER ISLAND



# Lifetime Achievement **AWARD**

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the exceptional dedication, commitment, and extraordinary contributions of those members who have received their Fellowship and since then have continued to attain significant achievements in a broad range of areas.





Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

## Eric Watt, FCPA, FCA

Highly respected for his integrity as a leader and skills as an advisor, Eric is chair of the Independent Review Committee at asset manager Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel, where he directs annual reporting to security holders on conflict of interest matters and self-assessment of the committee's conduct.

Previously, Eric was senior audit partner, financial services, with KPMG (1986-2012). He was instrumental in establishing KPMG's inaugural Vancouver-based financial services practice, led its asset management and insurance practices, and served as a renowned expert for asset managers, mutual funds, insurance companies, and brokers. Eric began his career with KPMG

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### LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- Awarded KPMG's CEO's Regional Community Leader Award (2010) for financial acumen and extraordinary contributions to the charitable sector.
- Led the establishment and growth of Arts Umbrella Foundation's assets to over \$16 million, building a launch pad for future success.
- Guided the Rick Hansen Foundation to address the financial challenges of COVID-19, while simultaneously adapting and expanding its programming.

predecessor Ernst & Whinney in 1977, serving clients from its Vancouver, Calgary, and New York offices, and was elected to Fellowship in 2014.

As a director with his provincial legacy body (2011-2015), Eric was key to the success of its Joint Investment Policy Task Force, and he continues to enthusiastically advocate for the profession.

An extraordinary volunteer, Eric has made impactful contributions to manifold areas of his community for over three decades. He has strengthened the financial health and operating abilities of numerous BC non-profits, including Arts Umbrella Foundation, where, as founding trustee and treasurer (1991-present) he was instrumental in establishing a sustainable funding base. As chair of Chor Leoni Foundation (2020-present), he has led its strategic growth. And as a director with VSO School of Music (2013-2020), he established financial frameworks to streamline operations. Eric has also been instrumental in the success of the Rick Hansen Foundation (as treasurer), Knowledge Network (as director) and Vancouver Foundation — where, as chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Eric led growth of its endowment to over \$1 billion, boosting its ability to provide vital grants supporting the local community.

*“Eric has created a lasting legacy which will provide support to charities in British Columbia for generations to come.”*

Kevin McCort  
President and CEO  
VANCOUVER FOUNDATION

*“Eric has developed a reputation for being one of the best to provide guidance to organizations like ours. While his generosity is abundant, it is also clear that it comes from a deep desire to make an impact on the community and organizations that he loves.”*

Stash Bylicki  
Executive Director  
CHOR LEONI

# CPABC Member Recognition Program

Every year, CPABC calls for peer nominations for the following member recognition awards:  
Early Achievement, Distinguished Service,  
Fellowship, and Lifetime Achievement.

In doing so, CPABC is seeking to identify those members making a significant impact in their organization, the broader business community, charitable and community organizations, and the CPA profession.

Members going above and beyond the norm,  
who set the standard for excellence.

To learn more about the program and how to  
nominate a deserving CPA, visit our website:  
[bccpa.ca/member-services/recognition-program](https://bccpa.ca/member-services/recognition-program)



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