

Celebrating Excellence

2020 HONOUREES

Early Achievement | Distinguished Service
Fellowship | Honorary CPA





Celebrating Excellence

Meet our 2020
Member Recognition
Honourees

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Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

Celebrating Excellence

On behalf of our profession, I am proud to recognize the individuals whose outstanding accomplishments are described in the 2020-21 edition of CPABC's Member Recognition Supplement.

When we honour CPAs through our Member Recognition Program, we are honouring our leaders, volunteers, community workers, and educators. These members have made valuable and sustained contributions to the profession, the business community, and/or to charitable endeavours.

Throughout their careers, and particularly amidst the uncertainty and challenges brought about by the pandemic, these members remind us more than ever of our ability as CPAs to provide the leadership, trusted guidance, and strategic direction that position organizations for strong performance and sustainability.

The people you will learn about in the following pages bring honour and distinction to our profession. Their commitment, actions, and significant contributions are unique and impactful – and they inspire us and make us proud.

Honourees, my congratulations to each of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Dodds', written on a light-colored background.

Geoff Dodds, CPA, CA
CPABC Board Chair

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

- ★ CPABC President and CEO's Address
- ★ CPABC Member Recognition Committees Chair's Address
- ★ CPABC Board Chair's Address
- ★ Early Achievement Roundtable Chat
- ★ Messages from the Fellows (PART ONE)
- ★ Distinguished Service Roundtable Chat
- ★ Messages from the Fellows (PART TWO)
- ★ Honorary CPA Roundtable Chat
- ★ Concluding Remarks
- ★ Networking

Early Achievement **AWARD**

The CPABC Early Achievement Award celebrates members who distinguish themselves early in their CPA careers through professional achievement and volunteer service, with an emphasis on professional accomplishments.





Photo by Island Life Photographics

Derek Lamb, CPA, CA

A partner with Chan Nowosad Boates (CNB) in Campbell River, Derek specializes in audit and assurance engagements. His leadership and vision have significantly contributed to the firm's growth: he expanded the firm's client base across BC and helped more than double the firm's size over the past five years.

Other key accomplishments include improving firm policies, processes and procedures; leading the expansion of CNB's second office in the Comox Valley; and serving as a trusted advisor for the firm's clients. Notably, Derek worked with over 40 Indigenous fishers to have their fishing activities found tax-exempt through an appeal in the Tax Court of Canada.

Derek joined CNB in 2013, and was promoted to partner in 2015 at the age of 30. He obtained his designation in 2010 and began his career with KPMG.

A dedicated volunteer, Derek makes valuable and enduring contributions to his community. As chair of North Island College's board of directors, Derek worked to develop the college's Campbell River campus. He also lent his skills to the John Perkins Memorial Housing Society from 2013-2021 and currently serves as past chair. As chair of the society, Derek led the \$1.1 million renovation of its 62-unit residence for low-income seniors.

In 2015, Derek's accomplishments were recognized with a Vancouver Island Top 20 Under 40 Business & Community Achievement Award.



Photo by Shawn Talbot Photography

Sinéad Scanlon, CPA, CA

Sinéad obtained her CPA in BC in 2010 after earning her legacy designation in Ireland. Known for her outstanding work ethic and commitment to excellence, Sinéad exemplifies the highest standards of dedication and expertise in her role as an audit partner with the accounting firm BDO Canada LLP in Kelowna.

She joined BDO as an audit senior in 2007 and became an audit partner in 2020. Her outstanding performance led to her selection as a member of BDO Canada's national risk advisory team and as a quality assurance reviewer for the firm. She also leads the firm's internal peer review activities, conducting peer review training at the local and national level.

Recognized as a coach and mentor, Sinéad generously shares her time and skills to advance other CPAs. She also promotes the profession by helming BDO's campus recruiting events in Kelowna, the Okanagan, and BC Interior.

In her community, Sinéad is committed to improving the organizations for which she volunteers. Since 2015, she has lent her skills to the United Way Southern Interior BC (UWSIBC) as finance committee chair, treasurer, vice chair, and presently chair.

She led the organization's board through an amalgamation with another United Way regional office, supporting UWSIBC's leadership in all areas of this transition, including management, human resources, accounting, and reporting. Sinéad also served as treasurer of Kelowna's Fat Cat Children's Festival from 2011 to 2018.

Distinguished Service **AWARD**

The CPABC Distinguished Service Award recognizes members who have been actively involved in activities as volunteers for many years for their dedication, commitment, and outstanding contributions to the CPA profession and/or for their unstinting support to one or more not-for-profit or charitable organizations.





Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

Leanne Cheng, CPA, CA

Leanne is associate vice president finance, chief control officer at HSBC Bank Canada in Vancouver. Generous with her time, network, and resources, she displays an exceptional capacity to help others grow in the areas of teamwork, leadership skills, and ethical behaviour.

Before joining HSBC, Leanne was a senior manager with Deloitte, where as a CPA mentor she helped develop the next generation of accountants. A champion of female leaders, she led Deloitte's Women in Leadership Awards program. Leanne also served as a partner liaison with the firm's Society Partnership program, Deloitte's skills-based social impact program that fosters long-term relationships with not-for-profit organizations to break down barriers to education, employment, and inclusion. As part of this work, she co-ordinated major pro bono projects and led fundraising efforts.

As a board director with Talent Beyond Boundaries, a not-for-profit that matches refugees with companies in need of their skills, Leanne guides the organization's financial and operational risk management. From 2012-2020, she served as a board director with Windmill Microlending, a charity providing microloans to immigrants for training and education. Leanne oversaw its transition from a provincial to national charity from a finance and risk perspective, and she played a key role in Windmill's growth from making fewer than 100 loans annually to more than 1,000 annually today.

Leanne has also served as an intake reviewer with the Edmonton Food Bank, assisting clients and providing referrals to community resources. She has also volunteered with the accounting profession's Tax Clinic Program.

Fellowship

The title of Fellow formally recognizes members who have earned distinction and brought honour to the profession by meeting at least two of the following criteria: exceptional service to the profession, extraordinary career achievements, and exemplary contributions to the community.





Photo provided by Salma Bhaloo

Salma Bhaloo, FCPA, FCGA

An executive in the federal public service, Salma is experienced in leading operational delivery of programs for client services, social benefits, economic incentives, First Nations, and compliance. Currently assistant director, audit at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), she is a former regional director of finance and administration for the Pacific Region and former director of the Vancouver Island tax services office.

Salma has contributed to the CRA's strategic leadership on income tax compliance, including through service on a national task force to combat offshore tax evasion. She has built strong professional relationships within the business community to keep stakeholders abreast of priorities and jurisprudence, leading to improved tax administration through transparency and dialogue.

A champion of workplace wellness, career development, and diversity and inclusion, Salma developed leadership succession planning programs to build technical capacity and strategies to engage auditors who are

aspiring managers. She currently advances equity in the workplace as the national portfolio lead for women on the CRA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

A long-time supporter of the accounting profession, Salma has been an ambassador for CPA and actively recruits and mentors young professionals.

Salma has demonstrated outstanding volunteerism for over 20 years. As national member for data management within the Rites of Passage portfolio of the Shia Ismaili Council for Canada, Salma developed a digital framework for data management related to COVID-19. As a national director with World Partnership Walk, a fundraiser to tackle global poverty, Salma leads recruitment, onboarding, and retention of over 2,000 volunteers. In 2013, she volunteered with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture to conduct internal audits in Afghanistan and Mali.

In recognition of her remarkable leadership, Salma received the CRA Award of Excellence (2010) and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012).



Courtesy of the Port of Vancouver

Bruce Chan, FCPA, FCA

Since 2015, Bruce has served as board chair of TK Foundation, a Bahamian-based charitable trust that supports disadvantaged youth and promotes maritime education and safety. Bruce personifies the values of a CPA – leadership, trust, integrity, teamwork, and engagement – in all that he does.

Until retiring from the role in 2014, Bruce was CEO of Teekay Tankers Ltd. As part of Teekay Corporation, he was instrumental in completing acquisitions that laid the foundation for two future public companies, Teekay Offshore Partners LP and Teekay LNG Partners LP, which produced tremendous global growth. Bruce also led post-acquisition integrations and spearheaded the decentralization of Teekay's operations, increasing access to global talent and operational efficiency.

Bruce obtained his designation in 1995. He joined Teekay the same year, and took on progressively senior roles, including manager of finance and investor relations and vice president of strategic projects. Reflecting his

multi-faceted leadership, he transitioned from finance to human resources in 2005 as Teekay's senior vice president of human resources, overseeing 17 offices in 14 countries with over 5,000 employees. A passionate champion of diversity and inclusion, Bruce developed and implemented global management leadership courses that increased cultural and gender inclusiveness in the workplace.

Bruce is a remarkable volunteer. He has served with Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue for over 20 years as a board director and lifeboat coxswain. In the latter role, he is on call 365 days a year to lead rescue crews during marine emergencies. In 2019, Bruce received the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Operational Merit Medal in recognition of his role in the rescue of five people.

He is also a board director with the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, BC Ferries, and the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, where he led the creation of the foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.



Photo by Jesse Hlady Studios

Nelson Chan, FCPA, FCMA

Nelson has served as CFO of the Capital Regional District (CRD), the Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD), and the Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC) in Victoria since 2016. He is respected for his experience in strategic leadership and business transformation, as well as for his commitment to continuous improvement.

As CFO of the CRD, Nelson oversees an annual budget exceeding \$700 million, with recent major capital projects including the consolidation and modernization of 9-1-1 dispatch operations on southern Vancouver Island and the completion of a \$775-million wastewater treatment plant that will convert regional biosolids into fuel. Under his direction, the CRD has won the Government Finance Officers Association's Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, Canadian Award for Financial Reporting, and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award annually since 2018. Nelson generously shares his valuable experience as a mentor to new CPAs.

As CFO of the CHRD, Nelson recently helmed an innovative multi-partnership project to construct an \$86-million, 320-unit health care facility. And in his capacity as CFO of CRHC, he led the financial development and implementation of the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Nelson was previously director of finance for Canada Post Corporation in Ottawa, where his ability to advance key strategic initiatives resulted in over \$500 million of annual cost savings through the modernization and automation of postal services across Canada. He obtained his designation in 2014.

Nelson generously gives back to his community. Since 2017, he has been a member of Royal Roads University's Board of Governors. Presently board chair and chancellor, he advances initiatives that support First Nations reconciliation and equity, diversity, and inclusion. Nelson is also a board director with Community Living BC, an organization that advocates for, and delivers critical services to, adults with developmental disabilities.



Courtesy of WhiteWater West Industries Ltd

Geoffrey (Geoff) Chutter, FCPA, FCA

Geoff is founder, president, and CEO of Richmond-based WhiteWater West Industries Ltd., the largest designer and manufacturer of water parks globally. Under Geoff's leadership, WhiteWater has won over 30 IAAPA Brass Ring Awards in recognition of the company's innovation in the attractions industry, along with several Canada's Best Managed Companies program awards from Deloitte.

In 2019, Geoff was the first person from the pacific region to win the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award Canada. In the same year, he also won the IAAPA Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes individuals who provide exemplary leadership and contributions to the attractions industry.

Geoff joined KPMG in 1975 and obtained his designation in 1977. In 1980, he founded WhiteWater. Over the past four decades, he has grown the company by over 500 employees by making strategic acquisitions, obtaining licensing for related manufacturing and technology, and increasing the company's in-house skillset and capacity.

Under Geoff's leadership, WhiteWater has implemented a regionalized business strategy, establishing operations in Munich (covering Europe, Russia and Africa); Dubai (for the Middle East and India); Shanghai (for Asia) and Richmond (for the Americas). He has also invested in innovative technology. In 2018, WhiteWater launched a new wristband radio frequency identification technology that enhances customer experience and enables park operators to see in real time how park attractions are performing. In 2020, WhiteWater used this wristband system to provide contact tracing for COVID-19.

In addition to his many business achievements, Geoff has been a board director since 2014 with Covenant House Vancouver, an organization that supports at-risk youth. He is currently treasurer and chair of the Finance Development and Communications Committee, supporting the charity's success in raising \$56 million to finance two new buildings in Vancouver that will double the amount of housing available for homeless youth.



Photo by Jesse Hlady Studios

Douglas (Doug) Crowder, FCPA, FCMA

A sought-after board director in Victoria, Doug combines an ability to unify diverse stakeholders with a passion for sharing his financial and governance expertise and clear ethical guidance.

Doug served as CFO of Ralmax Group of Companies, a group of industrial businesses headquartered in Victoria, from 2004 until his retirement in 2015. He led Ralmax through several corporate acquisitions where he applied his strategic and capital budgeting skills, and developed systems and a corporate culture that enabled Ralmax to grow by over 290% during his tenure. Other key accomplishments included the purchase of Point Hope Maritime shipyard, which through Doug's expertise was transformed from bankruptcy to a profitable ship repair company.

Previously, he was vice president and CFO of SailRail Automated Systems Inc. and then vice president of finance at Miller Paving Limited, both located in Markham, Ontario. Doug obtained his professional accounting designation in 1984, followed by an MBA in

1994 and the Institute of Corporate Directors designation in 2017.

Recognized as a champion of First Nations economic development, financial literacy, training, and governance, Doug helped create a joint venture industrial marine corporation, Salish Seas Industrial Services Ltd., with the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation. He served on the Songhees Nation Financial Advisory Committee from 2013 to 2017 and continues to share best practices in financial management and governance as a board director for the Songhees Development Corporation.

Doug has given back in his community for over 40 years and is widely known as a role model and resource for volunteer boards to learn from. He is currently a member of the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board, contributing his expertise in risk management, financial oversight, and governance. He also serves on the board and as treasurer with the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority.



Courtesy of Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia

Constance (Connie) Fair, FCPA, FCMA

Respected for her strategic vision and engaging leadership style, Connie served as president and CEO of the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia (LTSA), a publicly accountable corporation responsible for operating land title and survey systems in BC, from 2016 until retiring in 2021.

Connie obtained her designation in 2015. She joined BC Assessment in 1993 and was named president and CEO in 2008, a role she held until 2016. Under her guidance, BC Assessment was named one of BC's Top Employers several times and was recognized by other groups for best public relations campaign, best employee-led United Way campaign, excellence in systems innovation, and innovative use of geographic information systems.

As CEO of LTSA, Connie broadened the organization's strategic direction to encompass additional public sector services in a customer-centric way. These included new registries and improved services, such as ParcelMap BC and online property tax deferral.

With Connie's direction, the LTSA embraced innovative technology to increase automated property registration from 50% to 70% and spearheaded a first-of-its-kind Land Owner Transparency Registry to help in the fight against money laundering and criminal activity in the BC real estate market.

Connie has represented the CPA profession as a speaker at national and international events and has supported the profession by providing training opportunities to CPA students at LTSA.

An active volunteer, she is co-chair of the UBC Alumni Advisory Council, former treasurer of the International Women's Forum BC, and former president of the Integrated Cadastral Information Society, which facilitates sharing of local intelligence data.

Connie received a BC CEO Award in the Public Services Company category from Business in Vancouver (2019), a YWCA Women of Distinction Award in Business and the Professions (2019), and was named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by Women's Executive Network (2012).

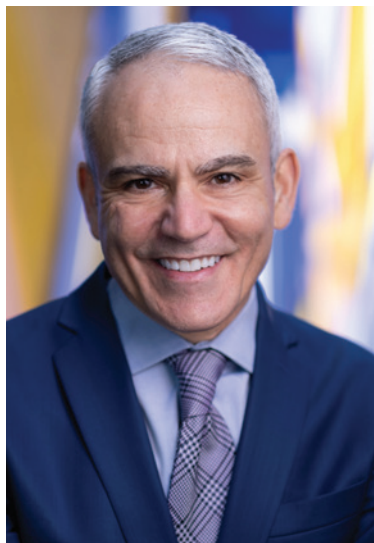


Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

David Garofalo, FCPA, FCA

David is CEO and board chair of Gold Royalty Corp., an emerging precious metals royalty company, and chair of the board of Great Panther Mining Limited, a precious metal producer, both based in Vancouver. An internationally respected leader in the mining sector, he is recognized for his technical skills and drive, as well as his desire to help others succeed.

David obtained his designation in 1990. He has served as treasurer of Inmet Mining Corporation, senior vice president of finance and CFO of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, and president and CEO of Hudbay Minerals Inc. At Hudbay, his exceptional competencies helped move the company beyond depleted Canadian mines and tripled its asset base.

Before joining Gold Royalty, David was president and CEO of Goldcorp Inc., where he invested in new technology to dramatically increase efficiency; for example, he partnered with major technology companies such as IBM to synthesize exploration data from old mines.

His efforts realized savings, attracted new investors, and positioned Goldcorp well for mergers and acquisitions. As a board director with both the World Gold Council and the International Council on Metals and Mining (2016-2019), David contributed to global mining policy.

In his community, David is a mentor with the Young Presidents' Organization. He has shared his insight on policy matters as a board director with the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, and he is currently deputy chair of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, contributing his analytical and financial skills. Since 2019, he has also been a trustee of the Christie and David Garofalo Family Foundation, established to support arts and health-based charities in BC.

In recognition of his leadership, David was named Canada's CFO of the Year in 2009 by Financial Executives International Canada and Mining Person of the Year in 2012 by Northern Miner.



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

Lara Greguric, FCPA, FCA

Lara is executive vice president of learning at the CPA Western School of Business (CPAWSB) in Vancouver, a role she assumed in 2016. Passionate about providing the best experience for students, educators, and employers, Lara uses her considerable skills to lead innovative change within the profession.

Lara obtained her designation in 1998. She has served in leadership roles for two decades, including as director of financial analysis and global sourcing at CIBC and manager of revenue and strategic planning at Janssen Ortho Inc.

At CPAWSB, Lara has strengthened stakeholder relationships and helmed initiatives to accredit post-secondary institutions to deliver the CPA Professional Education Program. Her insightful guidance led her team to streamline the prerequisite course recognition process, resulting in enhanced post-secondary participation. Also known for developing a highly engaged pool of educational contractors, under Lara's direction, contractor satisfaction rates have consistently been at least 90%.

Her dedication to enhancing the profession is exceptional. As chair of the national Pre-Certification Education Directors Committee, Lara strengthened the profession's attractiveness and relevance through innovative curriculum changes, including major revisions to the CPA Competency Map to incorporate forward-thinking data analytics and information systems competencies. During unification, Lara spearheaded the development of the profession's new CPA practical experience requirements. Most recently, as a member of the profession's COVID-19 Exam Task Force, Lara ensured the successful and safe delivery of the September 2020 Common Final Examination.

Lara's volunteer contributions are equally impressive. As chair of the North Vancouver District Public Library Board, she leverages her CPA expertise to guide the board through strategic planning, reviews of financial policies, and budget submissions. Lara also serves as an advisory committee member with numerous post-secondary institutions and is an active participant in BC Business Deans meetings.



Photo by Jesse Hlady Studios

Diana Lokken, FCPA, FCMA

Diana is a board director recognized for her financial, analytical, and business development acumen. She brings invaluable experience gained as a leader with the Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Capital Regional Hospital District in Victoria.

Diana obtained her designation in 1981 and took on progressive leadership positions with CRD, including director of finance and corporate services, head of freedom of information, and general manager of finance and technology, a role in which she developed funding methodologies for initiatives and services with over 200 service entities. Additionally, she led First Nations coordination with CRD, negotiating one of the first municipal taxation agreements with a First Nation in BC. Diana also led a Federation of Canadian Municipalities partnership program in Ghana, improving revenue generation and financial systems.

From 2015 until retiring in 2017, Diana was CRD's general manager of technology and initiatives, and managed departmental functions for arts development, real estate,

facilities management, climate action, risk management, and financial data systems.

An outstanding volunteer, Diana has shared her skills for over three decades. She volunteered with her legacy body's Victoria Chapter (1986-1995), including as chair. A talented educator, she developed and led seminars for the accounting profession, Municipal Administration Training Institute, Capilano University, and the Government Finance Officers Association of BC (GFOABC). Diana also served with both GFOA of Western Canada and GFOABC, including as president. In 2019, she received a Life Membership from the Canadian Association of Government Finance Officers, recognizing her contributions at the provincial, national, and international levels.

From 2013 to 2019 Diana was a board director with the BC Municipal Pension Plan (the sixth largest defined benefit plan in Canada); during her term the plan achieved fully funded status.

She currently volunteers with Beacon Community Services and the Friends of Government House Gardens Society.



Photo by Peter Wong for KPMG LLP

Alan Peretz, FCPA, FCA

Alan is a partner in KPMG's Vancouver office and has been the regional business unit leader of its advisory practice since 2015. Under his direction, the practice has doubled in revenue and grown from 115 team members to over 200. Concurrently, he has served as the BC leader of the firm's management consulting practice, which has more than tripled in size under his direction.

Previously, Alan worked at Deloitte LLP in its audit, then utility consulting practices. In 2000, he helped establish the firm's risk consulting practice, which he led in BC for 10 years. He also led Deloitte's Professional Services Sponsorship for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (2008-2012). In 2010, Alan was elected as a member of the board of Deloitte LLP in Canada. He obtained his designation in 1987.

Alan has launched some of his firm's most forward-thinking initiatives, including KPMG Ignition Vancouver, which facilitates the integration of data and analytics with strategy

and risk advisory services. As the Canadian representative on KPMG's Global Innovation Council, he drove adoption provincially and nationally of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Alan also spearheaded the formation of KPMG's National Data Analytics team.

A generous mentor to KPMG staff and fellow CPAs, Alan also participates in speaking engagements at BC universities, promoting the CPA profession since 1984.

Alan has given back for over 30 years, including with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, BC Children's Hospital Foundation, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Since 2012, he has served as a board director with Streetworks Foundation, an organization that supports people who are or are at risk of becoming homeless.

In 2020, Alan and his team received KPMG's Impact Award for their efforts to source personal protective equipment for frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Photo by Kent Kallberg Studios

Dalbir Rai, FCPA, FCA

A senior tax partner in EY's Canadian Tax Group in Vancouver, Dalbir is passionate about excellence in service, has a deep understanding of client needs, and is committed to providing focused advice. Since assuming this role in 2005, he has been instrumental in the operations and growth of his firm's tax practice, which has expanded from 45 to 120 staff under his leadership.

Dalbir obtained his designation in 1985. Before joining EY, he was a senior tax manager and partner with Ellis Foster Chartered Accountants and a senior tax manager with KPMG. Throughout his career, Dalbir has supported the next generation of CPAs, making remarkable contributions to the lives of many new Canadians through his mentorship of accounting professionals from other countries.

Among his accomplishments at EY, Dalbir has led his office's diversity and inclusion (D&I) initiatives since 2005, dedicating hundreds of

hours to advancing workplace diversity. In 2006, he led a committee of human resources teams from organizations such as UBC, RBC, and Telus to share best practices in D&I programs. Also a respected subject-matter expert, skilled speaker, and author, he has presented on tax topics with the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Canadian Tax Foundation, and Pacific Business & Law Institute.

A remarkable volunteer, Dalbir began giving back in 1983. He currently serves as a board director with AdvantageBC, a not-for-profit that promotes economic development. As a director and chair with the Richmond Hospital Foundation (2004-2012), he was instrumental in raising funds to purchase a suite of MRI machines. In recognition of his exemplary contributions, Dalbir was appointed an honorary governor of the foundation.

He has also volunteered with the Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise for over two decades.



Photo by Jena Fair

Neelam Sahota, FCPA, FCGA

Since 2013, Neelam has served as CEO of Surrey's DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society, a registered charity providing community services and training to newcomers to Canada.

Her accomplishments include leading the building of DIVERSEcity's community campus from concept to delivery. She also secured federal and provincial government funding to grow DIVERSEcity's operational budget by 35% and helmed the development of social enterprises to significantly diversify the organization's funding sources. Neelam's inspiring leadership and financial acumen won her the Surrey Board of Trade's Women in Business Award in the not-for-profit leader category in 2014.

Neelam obtained her designation in 2001, and worked with A&N Consulting Inc. and MacDonald Dettwiler & Associates before joining DIVERSEcity in 2008. As CFO at DIVERSEcity, she supported the organization's strategic growth through prudent financial stewardship of public funds. Other achievements include implementing DIVERSEcity's first client management system across its social enterprises, which made it easier to gather key data to secure funding.

A respected mentor and educator, Neelam supports the CPA profession's goal of increasing financial literacy, particularly with her staff.

Neelam has in-depth experience in governance and strategic planning, which she shares with many boards and advisory committees, including as a Program Advisory Committee member for Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Certificate in NGO and Non-profit Studies program. She also provided governance counsel as a board director with Solid State Community Industries, a not-for-profit organization that builds co-operatives with new Canadians.

Currently chair of the Surrey Libraries Board of Trustees, Neelam is responsible for strategic planning and ensuring the organization's financial responsibility and accountability. As past treasurer with the Immigrant Employment Council of BC, she spearheaded its annual audit, developed operational budgets, and assisted with the formation of its first social enterprise, creating new opportunities for BC's employers.



Photo by Christopher Edmonstone

Jill Tipping, FCPA, FCA

Jill is president and CEO of the BC Tech Association (BC Tech), an organization that supports the growth of BC's technology industry. Known as an outstanding advocate for BC's tech sector, she was named to the Power 50 list by Vancouver Magazine in 2019.

Previously, she served with Xantrex Technology as vice president of finance, then vice president, operations and CFO. Key accomplishments included leading the company's operations restructuring and business turnaround. Jill obtained her designation in 1996.

A passionate and innovative promoter of the tech industry, Jill spearheaded and established ScaleUp BC, a partnership of BC organizations dedicated to small and medium-sized tech enterprises, and launched BC Tech's HyperTech program, an initiative to help non-tech small businesses adopt technology to grow their companies. She enlisted the help of 22 organizations across BC to deliver Hypertech more widely; notably, the program has successfully run through COVID-19 with 200 companies completing it.

Jill is celebrated for fearlessly embracing change and inspiring those around her. She is committed to diversity and inclusion in the tech industry, launching BC Tech's #WhatWorks series of events and introducing a Technology Impact Award for excellence in diversity and inclusion. She more than doubled the number of women on the BC Tech board within a year and has embraced the Government of Canada's 50-30 Challenge to accelerate progress on other measures of diversity.

To her community involvement, Jill brings her experience and passion for improving education and awareness of careers in technology. An advisory committee member with Science World's Symbiosis, she advances the project's goal to ensure access to educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She is also a board director with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, where she supported the move to flexible, adaptable financial forecasting models.



Photo provided by Gavin Toy

Gavin Toy, FCPA, FCA

Gavin is president and CEO of Prospera Credit Union in Surrey. Respected as a collaborative relationship builder and strategic business leader, Gavin has spent 25 years committed to growing BC member-based organizations. With an equal focus on delivering value for members, engaging employees, and supporting local communities, Gavin is passionate about the power of financial co-operatives.

In 2019, Gavin led the merger of Prospera and Westminster Savings, garnering overwhelming member approval. Upon completion, this merger was the largest in Canadian credit union history and Prospera became the sixth-largest credit union in Canada with more than \$9.5 billion in assets under management.

Before becoming Prospera's CEO, Gavin was the CEO of Westminster Savings Credit Union, a role he held for eight years. Under his leadership, assets under management grew by more than 75% and Westminster was consistently recognized for its strong organizational culture. Before that, Gavin held several executive

positions with the British Columbia Automobile Association (BCAA). Spanning a 16-year career at BCAA, he was most recently senior vice president and chief operations officer with responsibility for all member-facing operations.

Gavin obtained his designation in 1995 and credits his financial training and strong business foundation for all that has followed in his career. A KPMG alumnus, he experienced first-hand the power of mentorship and is passionate about coaching others throughout their careers.

An accredited director, Gavin is deeply committed to supporting his profession and giving back to his local community. He currently serves on the board of the Canadian Credit Union Association, the national credit union trade association, and he has served with several other credit union system boards. From 2013 to 2020, Gavin was a board director with Canuck Place Children's Hospice, including two years as board chair.

Honorary CPA

The Honorary CPA designation recognizes the leadership and executive accomplishments of non-members who have made a significant contribution to the profession, which positions them as leaders in the business community and the community at large.





Photo by Eric Saide Photography

Graham McIntosh, CPA (Hon.)

An executive director at the University of British Columbia, Graham has made outstanding and innovative contributions to the advancement of accounting education in BC for over 25 years.

Graham spearheaded the launch of the Diploma in Accounting Program (DAP) at UBC Sauder in 1999. He has made exemplary contributions to the profession by making the CPA Professional Education Program more accessible to students from diverse academic backgrounds, enriching the profession overall. DAP is a post-baccalaureate program for students with a bachelor's degree in non-accounting disciplines, and under his leadership, it now produces 150-200 graduates annually. Many continue into the CPA program, and DAP graduates account for approximately 9 per cent of all Common Final Examination writers in BC.

With Graham's direction, the program's achievements have had national implications; seeing its success, other post-secondary institutions across Canada have implemented similar program models.

Known for fostering strong working relationships within the accounting profession, Graham regularly attends events such as CPABC's Convocation. Since 2001, he has supported the CPA Education Foundation of BC's Accounting Educators Symposiums.

Graham supported the unification of the accounting profession by ensuring timely implementation of the new CPA Competency Map within DAP in 2015. In 2019, he contributed his important perspective to CPABC's labour market study, which provides insights into the demand for accountants in BC.

Graham also works tirelessly on behalf of accounting students, meeting with industry leaders to discuss opportunities for graduates and providing financial backing through scholarships, including the CPABC Bill Johnson DAP Student Achievement Award, which he founded. Under his direction, DAP has evolved into a flexible program that students can tailor to their needs and schedules. Most recently, in 2020, in response to COVID-19, Graham led the transition of all DAP courses to an online format within 10 days.

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



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