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Dear Subscriber:

Welcome to the June issue of *CA Practice Advantage* (CAPA) with highlights of the latest trends and views, research, standards and regulations, information technology, human resources, legal matters, recent publications and other information relevant to CAs in public practice.

We welcome your comments and suggestions for future issues. Please e-mail us at capa@cica.ca.
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Trends and Views



Responses to Climate Change Ultimately Reflected in Financial Statements

The growing realities of climate change and a new regulatory framework affect the business operations of many Canadian companies. With these changes come new responsibilities and opportunities for chartered accountants. For example, practitioners are being called upon to provide assurance regarding greenhouse gas emissions information.

Read *Climate Change: A Hot Topic for Chartered Accountants*, which was recently featured in Spotlight, a quarterly magazine published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta.

[Click for more information](#)

Global Accounting Alliance Launches Online Journal

GAA Accounting, recently launched by the Global Accounting Alliance, is designed to advance the understanding of theory and practice in accounting, business finance and related subjects by providing a forum for the international exchange of thought leadership from its member institutes. This bimonthly journal provides quick access to authoritative articles on trends, issues and best practice in today's increasingly interdependent global economy. Read the inaugural issue of the journal at:

www.gaaaccounting.com

For more information about the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), its mission and its member institutes, go to

www.gaaaccounting.com/gaa_aboutus.aspx

Canadian C-suite Execs Not Ready for IFRS

The vast majority of Canada's top financial executives do not believe their staff is prepared for the conversion to International Financial Reporting Standards in 2011, according to the *IFRS Readiness – Executive Research Report*. The manufacturing, retail and distribution industries were the least prepared on the impacts of IFRS. The Canadian Financial Executives Research Foundation (CFERF), the research organization of Financial Executives International Canada (FEI Canada), co-developed the report with sponsor Ernst & Young.

Read the full report at:

<http://www.feicanada.org/files/CFERF%20IFRS%20FINAL%20REPORT.pdf>

Be sure to check out the many helpful resources below for managing the transition to IFRS and ISAs.

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Transition to International Standards



IFRS — A Done Deal!

International Financial Reporting Standards will soon be coming to Canada. Now is the time to get ready! Staff of the Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) has written a follow-up article on the AcSB's omnibus Exposure Draft, *Adopting IFRSs in Canada*, issued on April 7, 2008. It clarifies who is affected by the move to IFRS, highlights the importance of preparing now, rather than later, and explains why becoming familiar with IFRS may not be as difficult as some might think.

<http://www.acsbcanada.org/4/4/7/4/4/index1.shtml>

Early Preparation Key to Successful IFRS Transition

The CICA's two-page information supplement Transition to IFRS, featured in the Globe and Mail last April, stresses the importance of beginning the transition process now. It provides important insights into the reasons for, and benefits of, Canada's adoption of IFRS. The implementation experiences of the European Union members and Australia illustrate the importance of early preparation for ensuring a successful transition.

http://www.cica.ca/download.cfm?ci_id=44394&la_id=1&re_id=0

Helping Your Clients Make the Right IFRS Choices

IFRS 1 is a financial reporting standard that stipulates the requirements for an entity that is preparing IFRS compliant financial statements for the first time. It involves important choices that will affect the entity's ongoing financial reporting.

The presentation *IFRS Implementation for First Time Adopters – Assessing your Choices and Making the Right Decision* is a first-stop resource for gearing up to help your clients assess their options and make the right choices.

http://www.cica.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/44545/la_id/1.htm

Online IFRS Resources

To access the CA profession's library of information and resources on the transition to IFRS, visit the International Financial Reporting Standards website. Be sure to bookmark this site for future reference.

www.cica.ca/IFRS

Helping Auditors and their Clients Prepare for the Transition to ISAs

International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), which will be adopted in Canada as Canadian Auditing Standards (CASs), will become effective for the audits of historical financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2009.

Recently released, The CICA's Guide to ISAs in Canada is designed to help auditors and their clients prepare for this fast-approaching change. The Guide contains several valuable communications and training resources—including an overview and comparison of the new CASs, cross referenced to existing sections of the CICA Handbook – Assurance that deal with audits of financial statements. As the CASs are finalized throughout 2008, they will be included in a separate section called "Canadian Auditing Standards" of the CICA Handbook and Guidance Collection.

To download The CICA's Guide to ISAs in Canada, go to:

http://www.cica.ca/download.cfm?ci_id=44176&la_id=1&re_id=0

ISA Online Resources

To access the CA profession's library of information and training resources on the transition to ISAs, visit the International Standards on Auditing website. Be sure to bookmark this page for quick access to future resources.

www.cica.ca/ISA

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Standards and Regulations



EIC Abstracts Review — IFRSs Adoption

The Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) considered the recommendations of the EIC Abstracts Review Task Force at its May 2008 meeting.

The AcSB agreed that formal interpretations of the issues addressed by the current EIC Abstracts will not be required for publicly accountable enterprises once the IFRS are adopted in Canada. Consequently, none of the EIC Abstracts will be retained for publicly accountable enterprises after the adoption of IFRS. Note: This change does not affect private enterprises or not-for-profit organizations, pending determination by the AcSB of the strategies for those entities.

To read the AcSB's full decision for this meeting, go to:

http://www.acsbcanada.org/index.cfm/ci_id/44817/la_id/1.htm

To learn more about this review, including the process undertaken, visit:

http://www.acsbcanada.org/index.cfm/ci_id/42661/la_id/1.htm

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Technology Matters



Software Piracy Costs Everyone

Losses to the Canadian economy due to software piracy have increased from \$784 million to \$1.07 billion, according to *The Fifth Annual BSA and IDC Global Software Piracy Study*, released May 2008.

Software piracy puts a strain on technology companies' ability to invest in new jobs and new technologies, harms local resellers and services firms and lowers government tax revenues. Businesses that are using pirated software not only increase the risk of cyber crime and security problems, but also penalties. Four Ontario companies recently paid a combined total of \$95,500 to the Business Software Alliance (BSA) to settle claims that they had unlicensed software on their computers.

To access the global software piracy study, visit the website of The Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft (CAAST) at:

<http://www.caast.org/language/default.asp?thisUrl=%2FDefault%2Easp>

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For Your Clients



Hiring for Success

Owner/managers sometimes view hiring, supervising and managing as a means to an end, rather than a critical part of fulfilling their entrepreneurial dreams. How they understand the job and the candidate may be one of the most important factors in their future success. Read Ron Price's article, *Entrepreneurial Hiring* for three steps every owner/manager should take before bringing a candidate onboard.

[Click for more information](#)

Planning for the Unexpected

Business owners and their professional advisors need to work as a team to develop a "What if?" plan that sets out what to do and how to proceed if the owner is suddenly and unexpectedly removed from the picture. Using an illustrative story, Thomas Houck outlines critical steps for preparing a contingency plan in his article *What if? — Preparing for the Unexpected*.

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Marketing Your Services



Maximizing Your Referral Network

Referrals can be a firm's most valuable source of new business. Bob Stewart's article *Maximizing Your Referral Network* provides tips for responding to new referrals and maintaining strong relationships with your referral sources.

[Click for more information](#)

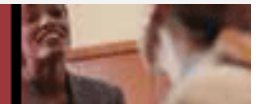
Focusing the Firm's Marketing

Marketing should be towards the top of your business planning agenda. A strategic marketing plan focuses the firm on its positioning, its services, and its clients while seeking to deliver the outcomes of growth and profitability. Issue 2 of *Marketing Moments*, published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, provides a step-by-step look at marketing planning as well as guidance on how to plan a marketing retreat.

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Human Resources



Free Webinar

Assertiveness at Work

Do you sometimes feel held back in your career because you haven't appropriately asserted yourself? Do you find it challenging to promote yourself, your views and your opinions? Do you find yourself frequently saying yes — when you'd rather say no?

If these questions resonate, the webinar *Assertiveness at Work* is your opportunity to learn about assertiveness skills that can help you succeed in balancing your career and personal life.

The CICA's May 21st webinar *Assertiveness at Work* attracted 750 registrants. Members who are not already registered on CA Source (www.casource.com) can register for free. Here's your opportunity to listen to the recorded version at your convenience.

events.onlinebroadcasting.com/cica/052108/index.php

Inspiring Commitment

Whether your team comprises a few or several individuals, they will move faster, get more done, have more fun, and make more money if all hands on deck share a common sense of purpose and direction. In their article *Motivation through Mission*, Bill Catlette and Richard Hadden describe how people perform in an inspired manner when they are committed to a compelling cause, and how leaders in all sectors have the ability to create the same motivation among their employees.

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Legal Matters



Consumer Product Safety

When enacted, the *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act* (CPSA) and proposed amendments to the *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA) will impact on how manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers do business in Canada. The legislation, which received first reading in early April, will give the Canadian government the right to require product recalls, mandate notification to the Government of product issues and incidents that raise safety concerns and provide for significant penalties for failure to comply with the law. Read Fasken Martineau's *Update on the Proposed Mandatory Recall Law* at:

www.fasken.com/consumer_product_safety_and_recall_management_bulletin_april2008/

Intellectual Property

2007 was a landmark year in Canadian IP law due to the breadth and scope of the decisions and legislative changes affecting rights holders in the field of patent, trade-mark and copyright law. Fasken Martineau's *Intellectual Property: The Year 2007 in Review* provides a synopsis of the year's significant IP-related decisions and noteworthy developments in IP law. This informative resource can help you and your clients keep abreast of the many IP issues that may affect their business decisions and avoid costly mistakes.

www.fasken.com/ip_the_year_2007_in_review/

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Professional Resources



20 Questions Directors and Audit Committees Should Ask About IFRS Conversions

With the 2011 Canadian transition to IFRSs fast approaching, boards of directors need to begin addressing the implications of the conversion for their organizations. This involves consideration not only of the conversion process itself, but of issues relating to risk, stakeholder relations, financial reporting and internal controls which will be triggered by the transition.

Available for free download, *20 Questions Directors and Audit Committees Should Ask About IFRS Conversions* can help them frame the issues and address the key considerations.

www.rmgb.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/243/la_id/1.htm

CA Tax Suite Premium and CA Tax Suite

In response to a poll of CAs in public practice across the country, the CICA has created two tax research packages that provide you with the authoritative tax reference materials you need, at a price to suit your budget.

CA Tax Suite Premium is designed for the tax specialist, and offers a comprehensive library incorporating insightful commentary, annotated legislation, current and archived government publications, and forms for federal income tax, GST, and all provinces and territories.

CA Tax Suite is designed for the general practitioner, and offers a condensed collection of commentary, legislation, and government publications and forms for federal income tax, GST, and one province or region.

For more information or to order:

www.knotia.ca/store/cataxsuite

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Continuing Education



The National Conference for SME Advisors

August 6-8, 2008

Optional workshops August 5th - offered in English only

Join your colleagues from coast to coast at this annual event designed exclusively for CAs who advise small- and medium-sized businesses. This conference provides an excellent opportunity to network with peers, exchange information and ideas on best practices, and to participate in leading-edge technical sessions. Bring your family and friends to enjoy planned events and take advantage of the many activities offered in Tremblant, Quebec!

www.cpd.cica.ca/SMEAdvisors/About.cfm

Foundations in International Financial Reporting Standards Course

July 7-9, 2008

The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, BC

This course will provide a foundation in International Financial Reporting Standards to begin your in-depth IFRS training. Upon completion, you will leave with a solid understanding of the application of the new standards and the impact they will have in your work.

www.cica.ca/4/3/6/9/4/index1.shtml

CICA's Part 3 Tax Course 2008

July 12-16, 2008

Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood, ON

An in-depth, in-residence program designed to help the full-time tax practitioner achieve the next level in tax training. If you are moving into advanced areas such as international tax or corporate reorganizations, and have completed the In-depth Tax Course, this is an excellent springboard for the CICA Advanced Tax Courses.

www.cica.ca/1/1/3/4/index1.shtml

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CA Practice Advantage Online Archives

Need to refer to a source cited in a previous issue of CA Practice Advantage (CAPA) that could help you today? Bookmark this link to the CAPA archive site to access PDFs of our past issues.

www.cica.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/25538/la_id/1.htm

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