



SKCONNECT

IN THIS ISSUE:

Congratulations to Saskatchewan's 2026 Graduates

CPA Saskatchewan's Inaugural CEO is Retiring!

Shelley Thiel, FCPA, reflects on her 30+ year career with the profession

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Plus, articles on Why Coffee Chats Matter More Than Ever, The Invisible Load of Leadership, and more.



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS OF SASKATCHEWAN

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CPA SASKATCHEWAN MISSION

CPA Saskatchewan enhances the influence, relevance, and value of the Canadian CPA profession by enabling economic and community development through:

- Protecting the public
- Supporting its members and candidates
- Engaging and educating stakeholders

CPA SASKATCHEWAN VISION

The Canadian CPA is the pre-eminent, globally respected business and accounting designation.

CPA SASKATCHEWAN VALUES

- Ethical Behaviour
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Excellence
- Accountability

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We live and work on lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10. These are the territories of the Anihšīnāpēk/Saulteaux, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakoda, nēhiyaw/Plains Cree, néhinaw/Swampy Cree, nehithaw/Woodland Cree, and Stoney Nations. They are also the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

We respect and honour the Treaties that were made on all territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we are committed to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous Nations in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



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CALL FOR AUTHORS

Interested in submitting an article for a future newsletter? Please contact Pam Hoffart, Communications and Events Lead for CPA Saskatchewan at phoffart@cpask.ca.



NOTES FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR AND CEO OF CPA SASKATCHEWAN



Shelley Thiel, FCPA
CEO, CPA Saskatchewan

The slow start to our Saskatchewan spring didn't stop us from a strong start to CPA Saskatchewan's 2026-27 fiscal year, which included many opportunities to engage with members and candidates. We wrapped up 2025-26 with a celebration of CPA SK's newest graduates at the Delta Hotel in Regina, SK where we were pleased to recognize Saskatchewan's two Honour Roll recipients, Thomas Hines, CPA, and Dalton Kiedrowski. In addition, Thomas received the Governor General's Gold Medal for achieving the highest standing nationally on the May 2025 CFE. Congratulations to each of Saskatchewan's 2026 CPA graduates on reaching the significant milestone in your journey to earning your designation and we wish you all the best as you begin this next phase of your careers.

CPA Saskatchewan's new fiscal year began on April 1 with the annual member renewal. The renewal cycle includes declaring CPD activities, updating contact information, declaring compliance with the Rules and paying fees. Prior to April 1, the CPA Saskatchewan team held two town hall sessions to help members better understand the changes in the national governance structure and the resulting changes in the fees and funding model.



Laurette Lefol, CPA, CMA
*Chair of the Board,
CPA Saskatchewan*

We had the opportunity to connect with CPAs from six communities across the province over lunch and after-work receptions from May 19-21. Thank you to all our members from North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Yorkton, and surrounding areas who joined us. It's always great to see so many familiar and new faces and have the chance to connect with our members!

On June 17-18, we look forward to having another opportunity to connect with our members in person at the CPA Prairie Connection Conference at the Delta Hotel in Regina and virtually. If you haven't already registered, there's still time to join us!

CPA Saskatchewan's Annual General Meeting will take place virtually on June 23, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. As of the June 23, 2026 AGM, the second terms of four Board members will be complete and they are not eligible for re-election. If you are interested in being involved with leading the future of the profession of Saskatchewan, please visit the [CPA Saskatchewan website](#) for more information and to submit your nomination for election to the Board by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

Further leadership changes are forthcoming for CPA Saskatchewan with Shelley's retirement approaching on June 30. Members will receive an update when the selection of the new CEO has been finalized by the CPA Saskatchewan Board.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM SHELLEY

As I step into retirement, my heart is full of gratitude. Leading CPA Saskatchewan has been an absolute privilege, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who made this journey possible. When I look back, I don't think first of milestones or metrics—I think of the people. I reflect on the conversations, the challenges we tackled, the laughter we shared, and the deep connections we made.

Thank you to the members for all that you do for our profession and community to elevate the value of the CPA designation. Thank you to the Board for your trust in my leadership and your dedication to our profession. To the incredible CPA Saskatchewan team, your dedication, hard work and brilliance are the true heartbeat of CPA Saskatchewan.

I leave with deep gratitude, immense pride, and full confidence in the bright future ahead. Thank you for the privilege of serving as CEO of CPA Saskatchewan.

Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants of Saskatchewan

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 23, 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the members of the Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants of Saskatchewan will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. for the reception of the financial statements of the Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants of Saskatchewan for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026, together with the auditor's report thereon; the appointment of the auditor for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2027; and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Dated this 20th day of April 2026



Shelley Thiel, FCPA
Chief Executive Officer



Laurette Lefol, CPA, CMA
Chair

There is no charge to attend the [AGM](#), however, registration is required. Please [register](#) by June 22, 2026.

Call for Board Nominations

Nominations for election to the CPA Saskatchewan Board for 2026-27 are now requested. Nominations must be received by the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute by 4:30 p.m., C.S.T. Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

Nominations must be in writing, signed by two members and agreed to by the nominee. Please visit the CPA Saskatchewan website for a [nomination form](#).

The provisions setting out the procedures for nomination and election of the Board appear in [Bylaws 103.1 to 103.14](#) which are also available for download from the CPA Saskatchewan website.

Under [Bylaws 105.1 to 105.8](#), two members are to be elected to the Board this year. **The following terms will expire as of the 2026 Annual General Meeting:**

Jolene Anton, CPA, CA	Tom McClocklin, CPA, CA
Bev Betteridge, CPA, CMA	Davey McLellan, CPA, CA
Ryan Kitchen, CPA, CA	Sharon Strueby, CPA, CMA

The following Board members are not eligible for re-election:

Bev Betteridge, CPA, CMA	Tom McClocklin, CPA, CA
Ryan Kitchen, CPA, CA	Davey McLellan, CPA, CA

The AGM will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

CPA SASKATCHEWAN
SCHOLARSHIP FUND INC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2026 Annual General Meeting of the members of the CPA Saskatchewan Scholarship Fund Inc. will be held virtually on the 15th day of June, 2026, at the hour of 12 noon. Information to be presented includes the Annual Financial Statements and a summary of activities for the year. A full agenda and a copy of the Annual Financial Statements will be posted on the CPA SK website after June 1, 2026.



Don Walker, CPA
Chair of the Fund Board
May 14, 2026

REGISTER FOR THE 2026 SCHOLARSHIP FUND AGM

All members attending the virtual Scholarship Fund AGM on June 15 are asked to register through the [member portal](#).



2026

CPA PRAIRIE
CONNECTION
CONFERENCE

JUNE 17 & 18

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
JUNE 5

Registration Options*:

VIRTUAL

OR

**IN PERSON AT THE
DELTA HOTEL
REGINA, SK**

[Click here](#) to learn more!

*Both registration options include on demand access to all sessions until July 28th.



2026 CPA PRAIRIE CONNECTION CONFERENCE

Time is running out! Don't miss your chance to attend the 2026 CPA Prairie Connection Conference while it's back in Saskatchewan. Register by June 5th to be part of this must-attend event taking place on June 17-18 in Regina at the Delta Hotel and virtually.

Join CPA Saskatchewan and CPA Manitoba for engaging keynotes and technical sessions from industry-leading speakers, networking opportunities, and the chance to win prizes using our gamification feature. In person attendees receive access to the networking event to conclude day one of the conference, and will have the opportunity to update their headshot thanks to our Presenting Sponsor. All attendees will also be entered to win their choice of a grand prize package valued at \$1,000!

Hear from six expert [keynote speakers](#) on a wide variety of timely topics:

- Courageous Leadership – What Does it Take to Succeed as a Leader in 2026?
- 100 Ways to Future – Proof Your Brain for the Age of AI
- Strategic Innovation Capabilities: The Skills CPAs Need to Lead in an Era of Constant Change
- Your Team Doesn't Suck, You Do
- Surviving the Current Inferno Without Burning Out
- Navigating Canada's Breaking Point

Watch all 6 keynotes and 18 concurrent session to maximize your learning and earn up to 24 valuable CPD hours (including up to 2 ethics hours). Check out a few concurrent session highlights below:

- Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Governance and Hidden Risks of Artificial Intelligence with David Gerhard.
- Board and Management Dynamics with Steve Vieweg, FCPA, C. Dir.
- Ethics Across Generations: Harnessing Diverse Values and Ethical Leadership: Mitigating Mis- and Dis- information with Laura Friedrich, FCPA. Note that these sessions qualify for up to one verifiable ethics CPD hour each.
- Financial Reporting Update, Federal & Provincial Tax Update, Materiality, Risk, and the Future of Sustainability Reporting, and much more!

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Devin Harris CFP, CLU
Regional Vice-President
IG Wealth Management Inc., Mutual Fund Division
Devin.Harris@IG.ca
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CPA SASKATCHEWAN'S INAUGURAL CEO, **SHELLEY THIEL, FCPA,** **IS RETIRING**



Shelley Thiel, FCPA
CEO, CPA Saskatchewan

CPA Saskatchewan congratulates Shelley Thiel, FCPA, CEO of CPA Saskatchewan, on her upcoming retirement, effective June 30, 2026.

Shelley became a member in August of 1989 and joined the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan legacy body on October 16, 1994, as the Director of Education. She later became the Director of Member Services before being appointed the inaugural CEO of the newly formed CPA Saskatchewan at unification of the profession in November 2014.

Shelley has been at the decision-making table and deeply involved in the design of every CPA education program in the last 32 years. As the Director of Education, Shelley was instrumental in the formation of CASB, which evolved into the CPA Western School of Business. Shelley also facilitated in the legacy CA education program, including instructing UFE prep. Many CPA Saskatchewan members were fortunate to have Shelley as an instructor as they prepared for their career.

Shelley has inspired and directly impacted the education of many CPA Saskatchewan members throughout the course of her career and has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of the CPA profession in Canada through her involvement in numerous national initiatives, committees and boards,

including the new CPA Professional Program and the CPA Western School of Business Board of Directors.

Over the past 15 years, CPA Saskatchewan has evolved through Shelley's inspiring and approachable leadership style, and she has created a positive work atmosphere where staff are proud to belong. Above all, she prioritizes people and relationships, and is loved and deeply respected for her leadership and professionalism. Her influence on CPAs in Saskatchewan and the CPA Saskatchewan team is undeniable, and we have all been incredibly fortunate to benefit from her leadership.

Before she officially retires, we sat down with Shelley to discuss her thoughts on the evolution of the CPA profession throughout the course of her career, creating her vision of the CPA Saskatchewan we see today, her biggest takeaways, and what's ahead.

At the time you earned your designation, where did you initially envision it taking you? What led you down the path to a career working for the profession?

When I initially graduated from the College of Commerce (now Edwards School of Business), I started my career in public accounting. During those initial years, I was very involved with helping the newer students on their journey through the education program. At that time, I was marking practice exams and providing advice both for students that I worked with as well as through the Institute. I also marked the national exams for a couple of years. So, from those very first years, education was a passion for me. Interestingly, when I was deciding what to pursue in university, my decision was between business and education, so looking back, I realize that I found a way to combine those throughout my career.

Given my involvement in education, the "Director of Education" position at the legacy CA Institute was my dream job at that time. When the opportunity presented itself, I pursued it, and was fortunate to be given that opportunity. That was my start working with the profession.

You were working as Director of Member Services at the Institute of Chartered Accountants prior to the formation of CPA Saskatchewan. What motivated you to pursue the role of the inaugural CEO at the time of the unification of the profession?

When the CEO role became available and the transitional steering committee took on the search, I was not interested initially. I was very happy in my current role and did not see myself fitting into the CEO role. However, as time went on and I was exposed to some of the work, including work with my national colleagues, I decided that it was an opportunity that I wanted to pursue. I still remember very clearly the final interview; I was quite convinced that the job would NOT be mine.

Take us back to your early days as the newly appointed CEO of CPA Saskatchewan? What was it like learning not only to lead as a CEO, but lead a newly formed organization from the ground up?

Wow – there are memories from those days. There was the absolute sheer excitement of taking on something new and seeing what we could build, tempered by the chaos of that something new. We brought together staff from two offices into a new building, with new legislation, new rules and many perspectives.

When we moved in, we did not have all of the furniture, so staff were working in rather random places in the office (this was before you could easily carry your laptop to whatever location you wanted). We had paper, paper, and more paper. We had boxes of files from one of the previous offices, and member files in all shapes and sizes. There was a lot of stress, a lot of laughter, and a whole lot of teamwork to get us through those first days. There were days that I wondered if I really was qualified. There was so much learning in those first days as we managed the change. That learning has served me well.

How have you seen CPA Saskatchewan evolve throughout your tenure? Has it grown into the initial vision you started with? How has your vision changed throughout the past 10+ years?

In 2014, I think that most of us expected that once we got through that initial change, we would be on our way. What



Shelley Thiel and family at her FCA presentation ceremony in 2006.

no one expected was the magnitude of change that would continue, and still continues. However, I do know that many of us thrive on change, so the excitement of that really kept me motivated. There has not been a dull moment in my career.

Looking back, what are you most proud of from your time as CEO of CPA Saskatchewan?

I am definitely most proud of the team that we have built at CPA Saskatchewan. We have some of the most dedicated, hard working, smart, collaborative, and fun people working in our office. Everyone is willing to take on a challenge, and to thrive in their roles, all while focusing on the “TEAM.” We work very hard and have a lot of fun together.

Do you have a favourite memory or memories that you would like to share?

If I have to pick one, I will choose convocation; it is always my favourite event. It is so rewarding to see our new CPAs joining the profession and to celebrate their success. I have never missed a convocation! I could also share a lot of stories about “incidents” at convocation.



The inaugural CPA Saskatchewan team in 2015.

You have become well-known for your leadership style. How would you describe your leadership philosophy?

I am generally very calm and positive, which I think has greatly impacted how I lead. However, I also am very enthusiastic, especially given the opportunity to work with others, so I'm not sure that there is just one style. I also have always prioritized being fair and trying to bring out the best in others.

What would your advice be to other aspiring leaders or future CEOs?

I think that my advice would be to be grateful for the opportunity, embrace the challenges and remember that what is most important is the people.

What are your plans for your upcoming retirement? Do you have any goals/passions you plan to pursue?

Anyone who has talked to me knows that I am most looking forward to more time with our grandchildren. Gary and I also have some travel plans, and I want to stay involved in the community in volunteer roles and have more family

time. I don't expect that you will find me sitting around home too much.

What are you looking forward to? What will you miss the most?

What I will miss the most is very easy to answer. I will miss the people – the members, the volunteers, my colleagues across the west and the rest of the county, and most of all, the CPA Saskatchewan staff who I work with every day. They are an incredibly inspiring group of people.

What do you think people would be most surprised to learn about you or your career journey?

When I started as Director of Education over 30 years ago, I anticipated that it was a 3 or 4 year adventure that I was taking on and fully expected to move into something else eventually.

Are there any other thoughts you wish to share or a message to all CPA Saskatchewan members, Board, and staff?

Just thank you! I am grateful for the opportunity to lead CPA Saskatchewan, to meet and learn from so many exceptional people, and most importantly, for the relationships that have developed, especially with the amazing people who are around me every day.

I am quite sure that the transitional steering committee has no memory of the quote from Henry Ford that I included in my final interview presentation but as I look back, I think that it was quite appropriate: **“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”**

We would like to thank Shelley for her leadership and dedication to the profession and we wish her all the best in her retirement!



Shelley emceed her final CPA Saskatchewan Convocation in March after not missing a single ceremony in over 30 years with the profession.



Shelley with the current CPA Saskatchewan team.



PD CONNECT

YOUR CENTRALIZED DESTINATION FOR PD OFFERINGS

All virtual and on demand courses are available in PD Connect, accessible through your Member Portal under the Events/Passports tab.

HOW IT WORKS:

- You will receive an email with a link to [PD Connect](#) for all courses. You can also access PD Connect through your Member Portal. Go to the 'Events/Passports' tab and select 'PD Connect'. Once logged into PD Connect, you will find your course through the Learning Centre.
- For virtual courses, a reminder email will be sent a couple of days prior to your course start date. Course materials and access information will be available in PD Connect a couple of days in advance of the course date. To attend the course, click the "Attend" button and Zoom will automatically launch.
- For on demand courses, you will be able to access your course within an hour of registering for the course. To start the course, click the "Launch" button. Materials are available within most courses after launching. Please note some courses will have materials attached and these are available by clicking on the "paperclip" icon beside the course title.
- All PD course emails will come from events@cpask.ca. If you didn't receive an email, please check the 'communication' tab in your Member Portal, as a copy is saved there for your convenience.
- Certificates are available for all live virtual and on demand courses. Once you have completed your course, your certificate will be available under the 'Completed' tab in your Learning Center. Please note that live virtual course certificates of attendance will be available once attendance has been verified (this may take a couple of days).

TAKE YOUR CPD HOURS WITH CPA SASKATCHEWAN

CPAs work in an ever-changing environment, and are continually adapting to updated standards; needing to learn, unlearn, and relearn in order to maintain competency. This lifelong learning ensures that CPAs have the knowledge, skills, and ability to serve and protect the public at the highest level. It also underpins the value of the CPA designation, so that CPAs are viewed as relevant and ethical business enablers.

ABOUT CPA SASKATCHEWAN PD COURSE OFFERINGS

CPA Saskatchewan proudly offers CPA PRO, nationally developed, high-quality courses. These courses provide the most relevant, timely, and curated content that is applicable for CPAs across Canada, and are chosen specifically to best protect the public and maintain the competency of members in key areas. Courses developed by the profession are made specifically with CPA members in mind; they cover a wide variety of business and leadership topics, and provide annual updates related to standards, legislation, and regulation. In particular, for regulatory content there is quality control to ensure members get important updates that are required with the right amount of depth.

CPA Saskatchewan also develops courses that provide you with relevant and informative information. Search the [CPA Saskatchewan Event Listing](#) page for virtual, on demand and audio courses. From here, you can search course titles by keyword or use the drop down menus to find courses on a specific competency, format, passport credit, course fee, CPD hours or provider. The search table can also be used to refine your results view by clicking on the headings to search in ascending or descending order.

CPA Saskatchewan offers a variety of **FREE** virtual and on demand courses throughout the year. New on demand providers are being added this spring and will cover a wide variety of topics.

The additional benefits of taking CPA Saskatchewan PD are that we can verify your PD internally; however, you are still responsible for entering your hours as only you know what is new and applicable learning.

PASSPORTS

Personal and Corporate passports for the 2026-27 PD Season are available for purchase. *Personal Passports* are designed for the most significant savings, the *Personal Passport* is non-transferable (only the Passport holder may use Personal Passport credits to register). Each Personal Passport provides access to 40 credits of learning. *Corporate Passports* are designed for group savings, the *Corporate Passport* may be used by anyone in your organization. Each Corporate Passport provides access to 80 credits of learning.

All CPA Saskatchewan courses may be purchased using your Passport credits at even greater savings from the cash price. Remember that Passports are non-refundable and unused portions of the PD Passports are NOT refunded, credited, or carried forward beyond March 31 of the Passport year. If you are unsure of how many credits you have left, log in to your [Member Portal](#) and look under the Events/Passports tab, then click 'passport eligibility' to view your remaining balance for the 2026-27 year.



CONVOCATION

March 14 | Delta Hotel | Regina

CPA Saskatchewan was pleased to celebrate Saskatchewan's successful May and September 2025 CFE writers at the 2026 CPA Saskatchewan Convocation on March 14 at the Delta hotel in Regina. Over 700 attendees, including graduates, their families, friends and colleagues were in attendance to celebrate this career milestone.

This year, CPA Saskatchewan was honoured to recognize two National Honour Roll recipients, Thomas Hines, CPA, and Dalton Kiedrowski. In addition to being named to the National Honour Roll, Thomas Hines, CPA, was awarded Saskatchewan's third Governor General's Gold Medal for achieving the highest standing in Canada on the May 2025 CFE out of 1,386 successful writers. Congratulations to both Thomas and Dalton on their outstanding accomplishments!

Yuen Ip, CPA, CMA, CEO of the CPA Western School of Business, Laurette Lefol, CPA, CMA, Chair of the CPA Saskatchewan Board, Shelley Thiel, FCPA, CEO of CPA Saskatchewan, and Taryn Emiry, CPA, Director, Member Services at CPA Saskatchewan were on stage at the afternoon ceremony to welcome Saskatchewan's newest graduates to the profession. The ceremony concluded with an address from CPA Saskatchewan's 2026 Valedictorian, Thomas Hines, CPA.

The evening program included an address to the graduates provided by Board Chair Laurette Lefol, CPA, CMA, a toast to the employers, educators, and mentors provided

by graduate Dalton Kiedrowski, and a toast to the families provided by graduate Keira Magus, CPA.

A special surprise was also planned by CPA Saskatchewan staff for Shelley Thiel, as this year marked her final Convocation as CEO prior to her upcoming retirement. In her time with the profession, Shelley has emceed over 30 convocations, and hasn't missed a single convocation in her 32 years with the profession! She was presented a plaque made by Sticks and Doodles to commemorate her time as CPA Saskatchewan's first CEO.

Dinner was followed by an evening of visiting and fun at the photobooth and on the dancefloor. To see more photos and videos of the event, visit [@cpa.saskatchewan](https://www.instagram.com/cpa.saskatchewan) on Instagram to view the Convocation highlights in our profile.

CPA Saskatchewan's newest CPA graduates were featured in an announcement in the Regina Leader Post and Saskatoon Star Phoenix on March 18, 2026, along with various articles promoting the profession.

A sincere thanks goes out to our Convocation event sponsor, [CPA Insurance Plans West](#), for their ongoing support of CPA Saskatchewan's Convocation. To our 2026 CPA graduates, congratulations on all you have accomplished so far in your journey to becoming CPAs, we look forward to seeing all you accomplish as you begin this new chapter in your careers!



2026 CPA Saskatchewan graduates.



Yuen Ip, CPA, CMA; Laurette Lefol, CPA, CMA; Thomas Hines, CPA; Shelley Thiel, FCPA.



Yuen Ip, CPA, CMA; Laurette Lefol, CPA, CMA; Dalton Kiedrowski; Shelley Thiel, FCPA.



Afternoon ceremony Valedictory Address: Thomas Hines, CPA.



Toast to the Families: Keira Magus, CPA.



Address and Toast to the Graduates: Laurette Lefol, CPA, CMA.



Toast to the Employers, Educators, and Mentors: Dalton Kiedrowski.



Presentation of the 2026 graduates.



Prior to her retirement, CPA Saskatchewan staff surprised Shelley Thiel with a plaque to commemorate her last Convocation as CEO. Jennifer Zerr, CPA; Shelley Thiel, FCPA; Leigha Hubick, CPA; Taryn Emiry, CPA.



Taryn Emiry, CPA; Shelley Thiel, FCPA; Laurette Lefol, CPA, CMA; Yuen Ip, CPA, CMA.



Presentation of the 2026 graduates.



CPA Saskatchewan staff were on-site to ensure the day ran smoothly.



CPA Saskatchewan Convocation dinner.

CPA PRO

What's New

Rules. Regulations. Best practices. Our courses help you stay up to date.

What's Best

No fluff. Just high quality, relevant information to serve you best.

What's Right

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What's Different

By the CPA profession for CPAs. Be supported by your professional community.



READY TO LEND A HAND?

CPA Saskatchewan is establishing a list that will be available on our website, identifying firms interested in providing pro bono or reduced-fee work for small, not-for-profit organizations.

If you are providing pro bono or reduced-fee services, please email info@cpask.ca to be listed.

Please note that your firm must be in good standing with CPA Saskatchewan to be listed. CPA Saskatchewan reserves the right to add and remove firms.



CONGRATULATIONS

CPA SASKATCHEWAN 2026 Graduates

NATIONAL HONOUR ROLL RECIPIENTS



Thomas Hines

CPA Saskatchewan congratulates the recipient of the prestigious Governor General's Gold Medal for the highest standing in Canada on the May 2025 Common Final Exam.



Dalton Kiedrowski



May Ada



Rachel Amon



Madison Anderson



Sadie Anwender



Dana Bachelu



Noah Bankowski



Shaan Bhargava



Andrew Bryant



Michelle Chai



Ashley Cleveland



Jesse Dang



Hannah Dobrohoczki



Anna Doty



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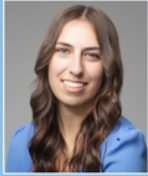
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Gurtej Grewal



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Theodore Halyk



Jana Harms



Logan Hartell



Tyler Hengen



Hayley Hopson



Huang Huang



Tingting Huo



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Shilpa Jain



Karmyn Kay



Brendan Kemp



Teah Kerr



Karan Khattar



Aiza Khoo



Matthew Kidder



Stephanie Kirkpatrick



Janesa Klein



James Kliewer



Richelle Kraft



Brett Lang



Yang Liu



Dmytro Lyamets



Rielle MacCrimmon



Keira Magus



Simone Manphool



Daniela Martens



Jackson Mayerle



Marc McIntosh



Logan Misskey



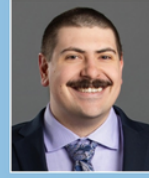
Adrianus Molendijk



Leighton Mus



Chau Nguyen



Colby Nistor



Maro Ojaide



Oyewole Oyebanji



Clea Parsaligan



Logan Pfeifer



Raina Phillips



Anne-Marie Plan



Cierra Prisiak



Kelsey Rapp



Dulce Rebuelta



Jessica Rosen



Chayse Ross-Williams



Xander Samson



Megan Sandbeck



Mariam Shahzad



Carlie Steciuk



Marlyse Steckler



Cody Sutherland



Jiewen Tan



Jill Tebay



Tristen Thimm



Linson Tom



Tam Tran



Kaleigh Tress



Kali Twamley



Priya Tyagi



Puja Vaghela



Gunjan Vaswani



Shafa Virani



Fei Wang



Ethan Watson



Hao Yang



Chuang Yin



Lesley Yuan



Leon Zhu



Dillon Zuck

Missing: Hunter Brooks, Samanta Buscariolli, Kordell Carson, Priya Doshi, Shelby Ferguson, Steven Findlay, Brian Guliker, Marco Haines, Huda Jasem, John Lee, Danae Novota, Ankit Padaria, Sydney Robertson, Colton Screpnek, Abbey Stanek, Ingrid Tucker, Julie Watson, Jaydon Weiterman, Qiqi Yuan, Vincent Zheng

CPA CANADA CONGRATULATES PROVINCE'S NEWEST GRADUATES

Dear newly minted CPA colleagues,

Congratulations, and welcome to the CPA profession! This achievement celebrates not only your hard work and determination but also the high standards you will carry forward as CPAs.

Your designation represents more than technical skill; it signals integrity, sound judgment and a mindset ready for change—qualities that will serve you well in an evolving marketplace.

As global forces, from geopolitical tensions to emerging technologies, reshape how we live and work, CPAs will play a pivotal role in helping organizations adapt and succeed. Our profession's enduring commitment to fostering trust and accountability positions us to think critically and shape governance and reporting frameworks that support a more digital, sustainable and resilient future.

The road ahead will both challenge and inspire you, offering opportunities to make a meaningful difference in your communities and beyond. And you won't navigate that path alone. CPA Canada, together with CPA Saskatchewan, is here to support you throughout your career and ensure Canadian perspectives influence decision-making at every level.

When we speak with a trusted, collective voice, CPAs amplify the insights and credibility needed to modernize Canada's economy and strengthen its global competitiveness. This profession thrives on collaboration. Ask questions, share your ideas and invest in relationships across your provincial and national community.

Most importantly, take pride in what you have already achieved and look forward to what lies ahead. The CPA designation opens doors, but it's your vision, values and leadership that will define your impact.

Congratulations once again, and welcome to the profession.



Pamela Steer,
FCPA, FCA, CFA
President & CEO, CPA Canada



Darrell Jones,
FCPA, FCMA
Chair of the Board

NEW FOR SPRING & SUMMER!

Live virtual Professional Development courses are now available through CPA Saskatchewan!

REGISTER TODAY

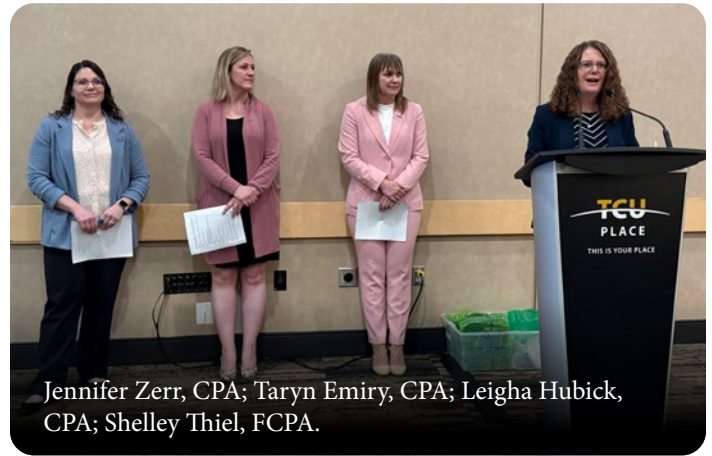


CPA SASKATCHEWAN MEMBER OUTREACH

From May 19-21, CPA Saskatchewan hosted six member luncheons and receptions throughout the province. These events provided an opportunity for members to connect with Shelley Thiel, FCPA, CEO, prior to her upcoming retirement, engage with CPA Saskatchewan staff, and network with CPAs from their communities.

Members in attendance celebrating milestone anniversaries (25, 40, or 50 years) with the profession in 2026 were also presented their anniversary pins. While there is no pin for 58th anniversaries, we were pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Ed Tiefenbach, FCPA, FCMA, on his 58th anniversary with the profession.

Thank you to all the members from North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, and Yorkton, and surrounding areas who took the time to attend. We look forward to connecting with you again at future member events!



Jennifer Zerr, CPA; Taryn Emiry, CPA; Leigha Hubick, CPA; Shelley Thiel, FCPA.



Cheryl Caza, CPA, CGA, celebrated 25 years with the profession in 2026.



Phil Symchych, CPA, CA, celebrated 25 years with the profession in 2026.



Ed Tiefenbach, FCPA, FCMA, celebrated 58 years with the profession in 2026.



Layne McFarlane, FCPA, FCA, celebrated 50 years with the profession in 2026.

When in Doubt, Check it Out.

Concerned about making an ethical decision?
Contact us.



Free and confidential member advisory services
are available through CPA Saskatchewan.
Contact monitoring@cpask.ca.



WHY COFFEE CHATS MATTER MORE THAN EVER

By Emma Rowbotham

In a world where artificial intelligence can generate a polished résumé in seconds and tailor it to any job posting, the ability to stand out as a job seeker has shifted dramatically. Aspiring and seasoned CPAs alike are discovering a new hiring reality: When AI can make almost anyone look like a strong candidate, recruiters and hiring managers increasingly rely on one thing AI can't replicate – real human relationships.

This is where the humble coffee chat becomes a powerful career tool.

Coffee chats (sometimes referred to as informational interviews) are casual, short conversations with someone in your field. They help you build meaningful connections, gain insights, and open doors that online applications alone often can't. Whether you're looking for your first accounting role, transitioning into a new area, or exploring senior-level opportunities, these informal conversations can position you as a known, trusted candidate rather than a name in a digital stack of résumés.

Below, we'll explore why coffee chats matter more than ever, with strategies for asking for one, conducting one effectively, and following up in a way that nurtures the relationship.

WHY NETWORKING IS ESSENTIAL IN THE AI ERA

AI tools can now refine résumés and cover letters, and accurately match job descriptions. While this levels the playing field in some ways, it also introduces a dilemma for employers: When many applicants look equally strong on paper, how do they identify who to interview?

Hiring managers and recruiters are increasingly relying on their networks, referrals, and personal recommendations to cut through the noise. When the applicant pool is flooded with AI-polished submissions, knowing someone who can vouch for your reputation or potential becomes a major advantage.

STRATEGY 1: HOW TO ASK FOR A COFFEE CHAT

Requesting a coffee chat can feel intimidating, but it's much easier when you keep the ask simple and respectful of the person's time. Most professionals are open to supporting others, especially within the CPA community, if the request is thoughtful and clear.

Here are three tips:

1. Lead with genuine appreciation or a shared connection.

Mention something specific about their work, experience, or background. People respond well when they feel seen and valued.

Example: *"I've been following your transition from public accounting into corporate finance, and your perspective really resonates with me."*

2. Be concise about what you're asking for.

The phrase "10-to-15 minute coffee chat" signals low pressure and a small-time commitment.

Example: *"I would truly appreciate 15 minutes of your time for a brief coffee chat to learn more about your experience in audit."*

3. Make it easy to say yes.

Offer flexible options, such as virtual or in-person meetings, and be open to their schedule.

Example: *"I'm happy to adapt to whatever works best for you – video call, phone, or in-person if it's convenient."*

A well-crafted message shows professionalism, making it more likely they'll agree.

STRATEGY 2: HOW TO CONDUCT A SUCCESSFUL COFFEE CHAT

Once someone has agreed, preparation and presence will make all the difference. The goal is not to "sell" yourself but to build rapport and leave a positive impression.

1. Come prepared with thoughtful, open-ended questions.

Ask about career paths, lessons learned, or industry trends, not just job opportunities.

Some examples:

- “How do you see emerging technologies affecting accounting roles?”
- “What skills do you think new CPAs should focus on developing?”

2. Keep the tone conversational.

It’s a chat, not an interview. Show curiosity, share your own experiences, and engage naturally.

3. Respect their time and close with gratitude.

Keep an eye on the clock and wrap up when you said you would.

You might say: *“I want to be respectful of your time. Thank you so much, this has been incredibly helpful.”*

If the subject of job opportunities comes up naturally, great. But never make the entire conversation about getting referred. Strong relationships, not transactional asks, create the best opportunities.

STRATEGY 3: HOW TO FOLLOW UP AND BUILD LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS

The follow-up is where your connection turns into a relationship.

1. Send a warm thank-you note within 24 hours.

Keep it specific: Mention something you learned, appreciated, or will implement.

Example: *“Thank you again for sharing your journey into forensic accounting. Your advice about developing strong data analytics skills was incredibly valuable.”*

2. Share updates or small touchpoints over time.

You don’t need to check in every month, but occasional touchpoints help keep the connection alive:

- Share a useful article related to something you discussed.
- Update them when you pass an exam or complete a project.
- Let them know when you’ve acted on their advice.

3. Offer value back when you can.

Networking is a two-way street, even for early-career CPAs. You can:

- Introduce them to someone in your network.
- Share insights from your coursework or industry news.
- Congratulate them on achievements you see on LinkedIn.

Small touches build strong professional relationships.

FINAL THOUGHTS

In an AI-driven job market, it’s important to emphasize your humanity by expressing your curiosity, professionalism, and ability to connect. Coffee chats are a simple, effective way to nurture the relationships that shape careers. Investing time in these conversations can open doors that no automated résumé ever will.

Originally published in CPABC’s Newsroom.



CAREER CONNECT

Connecting employers with qualified Chartered Professional Accountants across Saskatchewan.

Searching for a new career or an opportunity to join a Board? Visit CPA Saskatchewan’s job board, CPA Career Connect.

THE INVISIBLE LOAD OF LEADERSHIP:

A QUIET BURDEN



Leadership is often defined by vision, accountability, and performance. Yet beneath these visible responsibilities sits a quieter burden, an invisible psychological load that affects a leader's mental clarity, emotional resilience, and sustained effectiveness over time.

THE UNSEEN PRESSURES LEADERS NAVIGATE

Behind every confident decision, well-run team meeting, or steady presence, leaders are internally managing a complex emotional landscape. Consider just a few of the daily, unspoken demands:

- **Absorbing others' stress while regulating their own:** Leaders are expected to remain steady through uncertainty, conflict, and change—even when they themselves feel anxious or depleted
- **Maintaining clarity in ambiguity:** Teams look to leaders for direction long before leaders have all the answers
- **Balancing responsibility for outcomes and people:** Leaders carry the dual weight of organizational performance and human well-being, which doesn't clock out at 5 p.m.
- **Projecting confidence while wrestling with doubt:** Imposter syndrome is not limited to early-career professionals; many experienced leaders continue to battle internal questions of adequacy

Taken individually, these pressures may seem manageable. But compounded over weeks, months, and years, they form a chronic cognitive and emotional demand that can drain even the most resilient leaders.

EMOTIONAL REGULATION HAS A COST

Leadership demands constant self-monitoring—tone, reactions, communication, and timing. This ongoing regulation drains the same energy needed for empathy, creativity, and strategic thinking. Over time, the effects show up as mental fatigue, irritability, reduced empathy, slower decisions, withdrawal, and/or burnout.

These responses are not weaknesses. They are warning signs that the nervous system is reaching its limit. They're the body's way of asking for recovery, boundaries, or support.

THRIVING LEADERS MANAGE ENERGY, NOT JUST WORKLOAD

Traditional leadership advice focuses heavily on productivity tools and time management strategies, but those only go so far. Sustainable leadership requires intentional energy management, such as:

- **Recognizing early signs of strain:** pay attention to subtle cues, such as reduced focus, impatience, and emotional flatness.
- **Building intentional recovery into the day:** real breaks, boundaries on availability, stepping away from the screen, and micro pauses before meetings
- **Sharing the emotional load:** delegating not just the task, but empowering others to lead conversations, mediate conflict, or run key meetings
- **Creating psychological safety:** trusted spaces where leaders can speak openly without editing themselves
- **Normalizing the human side of leadership:** acknowledging that uncertainty, pressure, and emotional labour are real, which reduces stigma and helps others feel safe doing the same

TOWARD A HEALTHIER MODEL

The expectation of the endlessly resilient leader is outdated. Sustainable leadership isn't about carrying more; it is about carrying more deliberately. When leaders recognize their invisible load, they can protect their well being, make clearer decisions, and lead with compassion rather than exhaustion.

The invisible load becomes lighter the moment it becomes visible. And for leaders who so often hold space for everyone else, learning to recognize their own capacity may be one of the most powerful leadership skills of all.

ABOUT CPA ASSIST

CPA Assist offers confidential counselling services, including crisis support, free for Saskatchewan and Alberta CPAs, CPA candidates, and their immediate families. Plus, it provides health and wellness services like fitness and dietary consultations, along with several resources on important topics like addiction, family relationships, grief, suicide prevention, workplace challenges, and stress management. For more information, visit cpa-assist.ca.





WHY LIFE INSURANCE SHOULD BE PART OF A HOMEOWNER'S PLAN

By Nelson Soh, CPA

Purchasing a home is one of the largest financial commitments CPAs can make. Learn how life insurance can protect your investment.

The spring housing market is heating up, and many CPAs may be exploring the idea of homeownership.

Purchasing a home is one of the largest financial commitments you can make. But while buyers focus on securing financing, negotiating price, and locking in interest rates, one important question is often overlooked:

How do you protect your investment?

This is where life insurance plays a critical role.

HOW LIFE INSURANCE PROTECTS YOUR HOME INVESTMENT

When purchasing a home, you're taking on a long-term financial obligation. Mortgages typically span 20 to 30 years. During that time, your income is the primary resource to support it.

Fortunately, there are ways to help you protect yourself and your assets. Life insurance serves as a financial safety net. If something unexpected happens, you and your loved ones can:

- Cover the remaining amount of your mortgage balance
- Allow your loved ones to remain in the home without financial stress
- Replace lost income that would otherwise cover housing costs
- Prevent the need to sell the home prematurely

In the event of an unexpected life event, having adequate coverage allows surviving family members to have options during an already challenging time. The home that you worked hard for can remain a source of stability.

DETERMINING THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF COVERAGE

Everyone has different situations and circumstances that determine how much insurance coverage is needed. A common misconception is that there is a standard amount that everyone needs, but in reality, coverage is customized based on what you require.

Key factors to consider when determining the right amount of coverage for you include:

- Mortgage balance(s)
- Income and cash flow needs
- Existing debts and financial obligations (auto loans, student loans, etc.)
- Household expenses
- Dependents
- Existing savings and insurance coverage

Completing a [Needs Assessment](#) is a great way to figure out how much coverage is right for you. The [Needs Assessment](#) tool helps evaluate your financial picture and provides a personalized estimate. Rather than guessing or using arbitrary benchmarks, you can make an informed decision based on real data. It takes less than 5 minutes!

THE BENEFITS OF HAVING LIFE INSURANCE WHEN PURCHASING A HOME

Incorporating life insurance into your homeownership plans offers a number of great benefits, including:

- Protecting your family's financial stability by ensuring they can maintain the home and their standard of living
- Preserving your long-term investment by ensuring your asset remains secure, regardless of unforeseen circumstances
- Reducing stress so you can focus on building your career, growing your wealth, and enjoying your life
- Complementing your overall financial plan by diversifying your investments—a great strategy to manage risk.

Need help? Have questions? Give our Licensed Advisors a shout at 1-800-661-6430, or [book an appointment online](#).

Ready to take the next step? [Click here](#) to get a quote.

Content supplied by CPA Insurance Plans West.



CPA INSURANCE PLANS WEST

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Get a Life Insurance quote today!

cpaipw.ca



REGULATORY MATTERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS THROUGH GRADUATION

Md Maruf Adnan, CPA
 Alexandria Blomquist, CPA
 Priya Doshi, CPA
 Megan Downs, CPA
 Tyler Fiorante, CPA
 Jonathan Freeman, CPA
 Austin Guillemin, CPA
 Kaitlyn Ivanochko, CPA
 Karina Ivanyshchuk, CPA
 Shilpa Jain, CPA
 Marte Johansen, CPA
 Shelina Khorashi, CPA

James Kliewer, CPA
 Yang Liu, CPA
 Dmytro Lyamets, CPA
 Keira Magus, CPA
 Wynnee Mak, CPA
 Devany Mastad, CPA
 Kaylin Mattern, CPA
 Ronnie Nacional, CPA
 Vonia Nimchuk, CPA
 Logan Pfeifer, CPA
 Kelsey Rapp, CPA
 Travis Rosebrook, CPA

Xander Samson, CPA
 Megan Sandbeck, CPA
 Kenzie Sanderson, CPA
 Xinyue Song, CPA
 Amanda Stromberg, CPA
 Jillian Tebay, CPA
 Madison Weinbender, CPA
 Chuang Yin, CPA
 Su Zheng, CPA
 Elsie Zoleta, CPA

NEW MEMBERS TO SASKATCHEWAN

Shailene Caparas, CPA, CGA
 Sheldon Chochinov, CPA, CGA
 Tyler Curry, CPA, CGA
 Omosalewa Iaboni, CPA, CA
 Muhammad Jamal, CPA, CGA
 David Korevaar, CPA, CGA
 Kenneth Kustra, CPA, CA

Wayne Lusk, CPA, CA
 Amanda Mallmes, CPA, CGA
 Lois Parr, CPA, CGA
 Kylie Paul, CPA
 Waqas Rehman, CPA, CGA
 Adam Scherer, CPA, CA
 Robert Schottner, CPA, CA

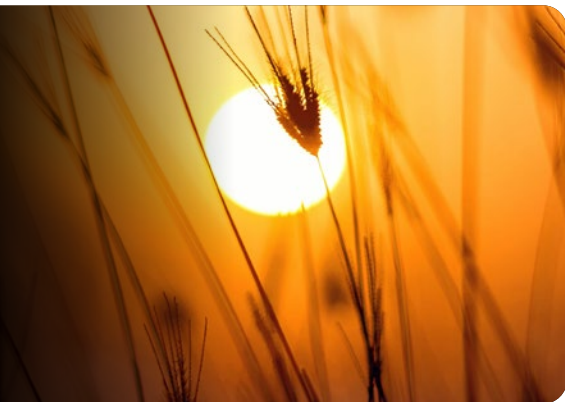
Vijaya Shakamuri, CPA, CGA
 David Silber, CPA, CA
 Thomas Sorsdahl, CPA
 Jacob Waterman, CPA, CA, CMA
 Bin Zhao, CPA, CA

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to learn of the passing of the following members:

- **Cathy Donald**, CPA, CMA from Regina, SK on March 26, 2026
- **Diane Hartnett**, CPA, CA from Alaska, USA on March 25, 2026
- **Darrell Metka**, CPA, CA from Moose Jaw, SK on February 13, 2026
- **John Ross**, CPA, CA from Regina, SK on June 20, 2025
- **James Shepherd**, FCPA, FCA from Saskatoon, SK on December 1, 2024

Our thoughts are with their families and friends.





The Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants of Saskatchewan

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINE DETERMINATION AND ORDER

On April 23, 2026, the Discipline Committee of the Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants of Saskatchewan issued its Determination and Order for:

BYRON KENT FRASER, CPA, CMA

The member has been found guilty of professional misconduct under Section 26 of *The Accounting Profession Act* over the periods of April 1, 2018 to October 31, 2024 as he:

- Failed to document and communicate his role and responsibilities for professional services to his client.
- Failed to establish effective controls over his client's payment processes, including the making of timely and appropriate corresponding accounting records.
- Failed to provide accounting records to his client and its auditors on a complete and timely basis.
- Failed to advise his client of the risk associated with the lack of controls, and delayed and incomplete accounting records.
- Failed to cooperate with the regulatory processes of the Institute as he did not respond promptly to communication where a written reply was specifically required and produce documents when required to do so by the Institute. On multiple occasions he failed to meet response deadlines. Further, he represented to the Institute that he was unable to respond to requests related to a professional conduct investigation due to medical conditions while offering services to the public.

Visit www.cpask.ca for the full [Determination and Order](#).

Authorized by:
Leigha Hubick, CPA
Registrar

April 29, 2026

