

MEMBER PROFILES

A PROUD LEGACY

Perspective. Versatility. Opportunity. These are just a few of the words that the accounting professionals in the pages that follow have used to sum up what their designations have meant to them. Whether it's CGA, CMA, or CA, these credentials have left a profound impact on the professionals who earned them. They have served as a springboard to new opportunities and led to long and fulfilling careers. They have inspired them to mentor and teach others and give back to the community. As legacy designations, they have also helped to define the profession as it moves toward unification into a single CPA designation. While these accounting professionals are excited about the future, they are equally proud of the designations that have brought them to where they are today.

We asked accounting professionals the question: "In one or two words, what does your designation mean to you?" They answered with some defining words that are highlighted in the following pages.

"IT'S MEANT A LOT MORE FREEDOM, A LOT LESS FEAR, A LOT MORE CHOICE AND CAPACITY."

**SONYA VON HEYKING
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"IT GETS YOU THE SKILLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED AND HELPS YOU THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT EVERYTHING IN LIFE."

**MARK WOLTERS DORF
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"VOLUNTEERING ... IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT'S REWARDING PERSONALLY AND YOU MAKE A CONTRIBUTION."

**SANDRA KING
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"THE FUTURE OF ACCOUNTING IS VERY PROMISING."

**RAFIK KURJI
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MARK WOLTERS DORF FCA CMA CGA | DENTON'S CANADA LLP

AS A PARTNER WITH DENTONS

Canada LLP and one of Canada's leading tax lawyers, Edmonton-based Mark Woltersdorf plays a key role in the negotiation and counsel of multimillion-dollar business transactions. Behind that success in law is a strong background in accounting: Mark started his career as an accountant and holds the CA (he is a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants), CMA, and CGA designations.

"The designations are well-respected; they open doors. Once those doors are open, it's up to you to make the best of it," he says. "It gets you the skills you need to succeed and helps you think critically about every-

thing in life. It has a very positive influence."

Aside from giving Mark an in-depth understanding of transactions, his accounting background has proven invaluable in his tax law practice in other ways. "The communication is vastly improved by being able to speak with accountants in accounting terms, as opposed to having to speak to them as a layperson," he says. "There's a language that's understood and the transaction can be completed far more efficiently."

While working full time in law, Mark's role in the accounting profession is an active one. He's taught for a laundry list of institutions and associations, including the University of Alberta, the University of

British Columbia and currently the CPA Alberta Joint Venture. He has also developed preparatory lesson notes for the Uniform Evaluation, supplemental study guides for the pre-designation process, and continuing professional development course materials.

With the designation unification, Mark intends to contribute to the profession as much as he can. "My goal is to take this new, improved version of the accounting profession and do what I can to make it even better yet."

BY **ROBIN SCHROFFEL**
PHOTO BY **BUFFY GOODMAN**