

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

Newsletter - January 2021



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Registered
Professional
Accountant

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Members and Students,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



A new year always brings about a reflection of the past year and just the past in general for me. I would like to review my year with thankfulness for the lessons it has taught, the successes and failures it has brought and where we are at

personally and professionally. I also like to look to the year ahead and set goals and expectations.

As the President of the Society of Professional Accountants of Canada, I started working on many files that needed revision, reform, improvements, and implementations. For me, RPA is the designation that will shine in years to come. Now we have pathways to the designation, established prerequisite courses, set the mandatory professional examination standards and guideline, built partnerships with Post-Secondary Institutions (PSI), built a strategic partnership with McGraw-Hill Publishing for our academic textbooks and online delivery of RPA education courses and established the comprehensive CPD program.

Post COVID 19, the world will be quite different moving forward, we already noticed the constant acceptance of new technologies, release of new accounting standards, dire changes to income tax law and a wild move to the online shopping and services delivery.

With these drastic changes I felt it is imperative to establish the pathway, training, and accreditation

for professional accounting practitioners. The Board moved fast on this matter and established the Professional Accounting Practice Committee with a heavy mandate to establish and implement this project. The Committee developed the pathway, training and accreditation plan that was approved by the board. Our goal is to implement a practitioner's program by the end of 2021, and we need full cooperation from all practicing RPAs.

We just signed a Memorandum of Understanding between RPA Canada and CGA Pakistan for mutual recognition and cooperation. This is a demonstration of RPA Canada's core belief of inclusiveness when it comes to promoting the accounting profession. A second MOU is in the process between RPA Canada and Forensic CPA USA that will be finalized next month.

On a final note, I just want to say that it had been an honor and privilege to serve the Society as your President. As tumultuous as this last year was for all of us, we all got through it together. We have a lot of work ahead for the Society and we need all the help we can get. I urge all the members and students to get involved with the Society volunteering your talent, knowledge, and experience to help RPA move forward.

I hope to continue to bring you, our valued members, helpful and educational content in the year ahead.

Regards,

Zubair Choudhry, RPA, APA

President/CEO

Mandatory Training and Accreditation of RPA Practitioners

As you know, the Board of Directors of the Society of Professional Accountants of Canada has approved the pathway for training and accreditation of RPA's in professional practice. I would like to thank every one of you who attended our first webinar "PPC1 - **Compilation Report Basics**" which provided an overview of the new accounting standard, CSRS 4200 for compilation engagements. This webinar was well attended by the members and well presented by the speakers. Believe me, it was worth attending.

Our next webinar, **PPC-2 Compilation Reports- in-depth**, is scheduled for **Saturday February 27, 2021** from 10:00 am to noon. Do not forget to register early to secure your participation.

On behalf of the Professional Practice Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you

that this training program is **mandatory** for every member who is in practice and wants to continue practicing as a Registered Professional Accountant (RPA). Every member must successfully complete all 8 training webinars and submit the case studies to qualify as an RPA Accredited Practitioner.

Please note that the effective date (December 14, 2021) for adaption of CSRS 4200 may seem far away but do not wait until the last minute to prepare for it. Prepare yourself early to ensure successful implementation and accreditation!

If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the RPA office +1 416-350-8145.

Harry Somir, RPA, Chair RPA Professional Practice Committee





MOU for Mutual Recognition RPA Canada and CGA Pakistan



We are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between The Society of Professional Accountants of Canada (SPAC) and the Institute of Certified General Accountants Pakistan (CGAP).

- The two sides will cooperate in sharing information and professional experience in CANADA and PAKISTAN, paying special attention to cooperation in the field of membership management, professional development and professional ethics, updating their knowledge, quality control, training and career development;
- The two sides will cooperate, participate, organize conferences, seminars and joint activities to bring benefits to both sides, focusing on the emerging fields of interest in the accounting profession in Canada and Pakistan.
- The two sides will promote the mutual cooperation in their respective activities, events and publications;
- The SPAC will provide scholarships for CGAP members to attend the Registered Professional Accountant (RPA) online

The two sides agree to the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding and on the implementation and the commitment towards cooperation and sustainable development goals for professional career development.

We are certain that this agreement will strengthen the future prospects of the accounting profession, confirming its sustainability and bringing together the best of both countries.

"We will keep you informed of progress and remain available for any further information you may require. With our best wishes for the success of our MOU, said Zubair Choudhry, President of RPA Canada"

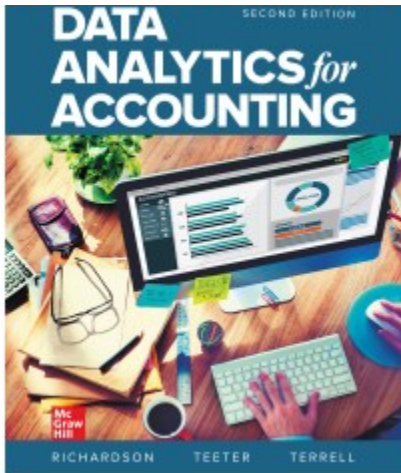


"The two sides will promote the mutual cooperation in their respective activities, events and publications, said Kamran Javed, Chairman CGAP"

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Data Analytics for Accountants and Finance Professionals



We are living in the age of technology. This has two important implications for everyone entering the business world. First, technology has made it possible to collect huge amounts of data. Retailers collect

point-of-sale data on products and customers every time a transaction occurs; credit agencies have all sorts of data on people who have or would like to obtain credit; investment companies have a limitless supply of data on the historical patterns of stocks, bonds, and other securities; and government agencies have data on economic trends, the environment, social welfare, consumer product safety, and virtually everything else imaginable. It has become relatively easy to collect the data.

As a result, data are plentiful. However, as many organizations are now beginning to discover, it is quite a challenge to make sense of all the data they have collected. A second important implication of technology is that it has given many more people the power and responsibility to analyze data and make decisions based on quantitative analy-

sis. People entering the business world can no longer pass all the quantitative analysis to the “quant jocks,” the technical specialists who have traditionally done the number crunching.

employees now have a desktop or laptop computer at their disposal, access to relevant data, and training in easy-to-use software, particularly spreadsheet and database software. For these employees, statistics and other quantitative methods are no longer forgotten topics they once learned in college. Quantitative analysis is now an integral part of their daily jobs.

A large amount of data already exists, and it will only increase in the future. Many companies already complain of swimming in a sea of data. However, enlightened companies are seeing this expansion as a source of competitive advantage. In fact, one of the hottest topics in today’s business world is **Data Analytics**. The new aspect of data analytics is that it typically implies the analysis of very large data sets, the kind that companies currently encounter. By using quantitative methods to uncover the information in these data sets and then acting on this information—again guided by quantitative analysis—companies can gain advantages that their less enlightened competitors are not able to gain. Here are several pertinent examples:

Data Analytics for Accountants and Finance Professionals

- Direct marketers analyze enormous customer databases to see which customers are likely to respond to various products and types of promotions. Marketers can then target different classes of customers in different ways to maximize profits—and give their customers what they want.
- Hotels and airlines also analyze enormous customer databases to see what their customers want and are willing to pay for. By doing this, they have been able to devise very clever pricing strategies, where different customers pay different prices for the same accommodations. For example, a business traveler typically makes a plane reservation closer to the time of travel than a vacationer. The airlines know this. Therefore, they reserve seats for these business travelers and charge them a higher price for the same seats. The airlines profit from clever pricing strategies, and the customers are happy.
- Financial planning services have a virtually unlimited supply of data about security prices, and they have customers with widely differing preferences for various types of investments. Trying to find a match of investments to customers is a very challenging problem. However, customers can easily take their business elsewhere if good decisions are not made on their behalf. Therefore, financial planners are under extreme competitive pressure to analyze masses of data so that they can make informed decisions for their customers.
- We all know about the pressures local manufacturing companies have faced from foreign competition in the past couple of decades. The automobile companies, for example, have had to change the way they produce and market automobiles to stay in business. They have had to improve quality and cut costs by orders of magnitude. Although the struggle continues, much of the success they have had can be attributed to data analysis and wise decision making. Starting on the shop floor and moving up through the organization, these companies now measure almost everything, analyze these measurements, and then act on the results of their analysis.

We talk about companies analyzing data and making decisions. However, companies do not really do this; people do it. And who will these people be in the future? They will be you – Accounting and Finance Professionals! You will be required to describe large complex data sets, run regression analyses, make quantitative forecasts, create optimization models, and run simulations. You are the person who will be analyzing data and making important decisions to help your company and client to gain a competitive advantage. And if you are not willing or able to do so, there will be plenty of other technically trained people who will be more than happy to replace you. **Equip yourself with Data Analytics and Business Intelligence tools.**

PPC-2 COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT IN-DEPTH (CSRS 4200)

Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 10:00 AM to Noon

Covering the areas of :

- Applicability, acceptance, terms of engagement, planning, performing the engagement, communicating to readers
- Special purpose statement
- Modification to the communication

Registration fees:

Members :\$ 113.00

Non Member :\$ 169.50

The participants will get 2 hours CPD Credits

[Click here to register](#)



Speakers

Rishi Sritharan, CPA

Umar Choudhry, Assurance Associate, RSM

REMEMBERING Giuseppe Papa



On behalf of RPA Canada, it is with great sadness that I inform you of the loss of Mr. Giuseppe Papa. Mr. Papa was a loyal and hardworking member of the Society of Professional Accountants of Canada.

Mr. Giuseppe Papa came to Montreal from Italy in the late '60s and soon after began his career in accounting, working as a Cost Accountant for a large aerospace company. In the '90s, he started his professional accounting practice, serving small businesses in Montreal and helping taxpayers in their tax matters. He earned a degree in accounting from the University of Québec in Montréal while

working full time, raising his two sons with his wife. Mr. Papa has been an accountant for over 50 years and an active member of the Society of Professional Accountants of Canada with an RPA designation. He will be missed by everybody who knew him.

His dedication to the accounting profession and his commitment to his clients were always his top priority when serving small businesses in Montreal, Quebec.

We wish his family the strength to bear this loss and send our sincerest condolences during this time.

NOTICE OF INFORMATION

Errors & Omissions Liability Insurance



Insurance Program Proposal Summary – Members

2021-2022 Insurance New Business - Members	Limit	Premium
MEMBER ERRORS & OMISSIONS LIABILITY		
• Individual Members with Revenues	1,000,000	
○ Less than \$150,000		\$700
○ Between \$150,000 and \$250,000		\$1,125
○ Greater than \$250,000		Referral Basis
Optional Coverages		
• Increase Limits subject to membership request		Referral Basis

For further information contact Nadine Chang, BSc, CIP, CAIB

Commercial Lines Account Manager

Bryson & Associates Insurance Brokers Ltd.

nchang@brysoninsurance.ca

Tel: 905-426-8787 x 349 | Fax: 905-426-4959

Please Note,

Every member and firm engaged in the practice of professional accounting or providing accounting services to the clients shall maintain E&O professional liability insurance, and provide RPA with proof of such insurance, in accordance with the regulations.



ARE YOU READY FOR MPE?

RPA Canada is pleased to announce that we have finalized the delivery action plan for the 2021 Mandatory Professional Exam (MPE).

We have also finalized our 4 MPE Review Session offerings, which will be delivered several times during the year in a self-study/online lecture format. Digital study resources will be provided, and personal 1:1 feedback sessions will also be available to RPA candidates.

RPA Candidates who have had their educational prerequisites verified by RPA Canada are eligible to attempt the 4 MPE modules:

- MPE-1 Financial Accounting
- MPE-2 Management Accounting
- MPE-3 Taxation
- MPE-4 Data Analytics & Technology

The examination dates for each module will be announced very soon. Stay tuned!

RPA LEARNING

For RPA Learning Never Ends!



Please write to us about your significant achievements, suggestions and feedback to include in the next newsletter. You can reach us at info@rpacanada.org