

## Frequently asked questions

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### 1. By how much will the annual fees increase in 2010-2011?

For active members residing in Quebec, the 2010-2011 annual fee increase will be \$40. For retired members, the increase will be \$5.

### 2. How did you calculate this increase?

The \$40 fee increase breaks down as follows:

A **\$10** amount is to catch up with increases in the CICA service fee over the last two years. In 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, the Ordre honored its commitment to freeze the annual fees and paid the increases in the CICA service fee from its own budget. This \$10 amount should therefore have been included in previous year fees, which is why the term "catch up" is used.

Another **\$15** represents the CICA service fee increase planned for this year. You will remember that CICA services include, among others, the setting of accounting, auditing and assurance standards for business, not-for-profit organizations and government and the drafting of numerous publications.

A final **\$15** amount is attributable to cost of living increases for Ordre services that are not self financed. A 3% increase was calculated for employee salaries, which is reasonable given the cost of living index and market realities. Another 2% increase was calculated for various costs and other expenses (e.g., electricity, stationary, etc.). The annual fee increase does not cover the expenses relating to self-financed services, for example continuing education activities or professional inspection.

The \$5 fee increase for **retired members** can be explained by the cost of living increase mentioned in the previous paragraph.

### 3. Why isn't the increase in the CICA service fee paid directly from the Ordre's budget?

The Ordre's budget was prepared in a conservative manner to cover foreseeable increases in Ordre expenses.

Paying the CICA service fee directly from the Ordre's budget would create an unwanted deficit for the organization. The Ordre's actual surplus represents three months of current operations, which is standard for sound management.

#### 4. What are the new member categories for annual fee purposes?

Two new categories were created for annual fee purposes and one member category was changed slightly.

##### **Retired members – Changes:**

From now on, inactive members are considered as retired members. Until last year, inactive member status was achieved when a member obtained a total of 90 by adding his or her age and years of Ordre membership. Now members can be considered retired at 60 years of age (as at March 31) if they have been on the Ordre's Roll during the last five years. Retired member status also allows members to earn up to \$5,000 in income from employment, from the practice of the profession or from the operation of an enterprise. We feel this decision is fair since the 90-year requirement was likely to penalize certain members (for example, those who obtained their CA designation later in life). Furthermore, members wishing to continue practicing a professional activity on a small scale will not be excluded from this category.

##### **Professors or lecturers – New category for annual fee purposes:**

All professors and lecturers who work **full time** (eight courses a year minimum for the lecturers) in a university or college in Canada will be entitled to a fee holiday equal to 50% of their annual fees.

The recruitment of new members is an important aspect of the [Ordre's 2010-2014 strategic directions](#), as it was in the 2006-2010 strategic directions. For a few years now, the Ordre has been implementing various measures to promote the recruitment and training of new members.

Plainly, while it is essential to have enough students enter the job market in a few years, it is just as important to be able to count on CAs who can teach them, develop educational tools, help to advance accounting science research and promote the CA designation in their everyday work, especially in view of the current shortage of CA professors.

It should be noted that this change will only affect 200 members.

##### **Members who are Ph.D. candidates – New category for annual fee purposes:**

CAs who are currently completing a Ph.D. and who earn less than \$5,000 (other than scholarships) will be entitled to a fee holiday.

In the last few years, we have noted that universities are recruiting professors who hold a Ph.D. A doctorate degree has thus become a standard hiring criterion for university teaching positions in various programs. It is therefore essential to encourage CAs to obtain a Ph.D. so that the profession is not underrepresented on university faculties in Canada.

It should be noted that this new measure could benefit three members in 2010-2011.

#### 5. Are other similar changes planned for other member categories?

No, no other new member categories or additional measures are planned.

However, as provided for in our 2010-2010 strategic directions, we will continue to reinforce the value of the CA designation, especially in the public sector and in business, where the majority of our members now work.

The Ordre will also continue to offer more professional products and services adapted to its different clientele. In this regard, you should always feel free to contact us to propose new tools, courses or publications!

#### **6. Why so many changes in 2010-2011?**

All the above-mentioned changes are the result of a lengthy review process that is closely tied to our strategic directions. 2009-2010 marks the end of the 2006-2010 strategic directions, but also the end of our four-year budget cycle.

The budget planning process, which involves reviewing the state of our membership, was therefore completed, and our conclusions led to the changes we are announcing today.

#### **7. A slight increase is planned for 2010-2011, what about the following years?**

Our budget planning process is based on a four-year cycle, i.e. the same cycle as our strategic directions. In our 2006-2010 planning, we had decided on a balanced budget over four years as follows:

- 2006-2007: fee increase;
- 2007-2008: fee increase;
- 2008-2009: no increase;
- 2009-2010: no increase.

As regards the 2010-2014 cycle, the Ordre's Board of Directors opted for lower fee increases, albeit indexed to the cost of living.

Fee increases will always be submitted and voted on during the Annual General Meeting. Of course, since budget decisions are made for the long term, the fee amounts for each year are subject to change.

#### **8. How will the Ordre determine to which member category I belong?**

The Ordre will determine the category to which you belong based on the information you provide in the information gathering questionnaire you will receive in mid-October. Then, in early 2010, you will receive a Notice of annual fees setting out the amount you will be required to pay based on the member category to which you belong.

#### **9. I can't find answers to my questions in this FAQ.**

Please contact us by e-mail at [collecteinfo@ocaq.qc.ca](mailto:collecteinfo@ocaq.qc.ca), or by phone at 514 982.4600, or toll free at 1 800 363.4688, ext. 4600. We will answer you as soon as possible.