



Montreal, July 19th. 2010

To the managing partner or senior partner

Dear colleague,

Subject: Green light to CA training periods in firms – outside public accountancy

As you know, the CA profession has set its strategic course on continuing to build and enhance the value of the CA designation for members and the public. In terms of qualification, one of the most important strategic changes consisted in expanding the range of training environments for future CAs ***beyond public accountancy***, i.e. in firms, enterprises and public sector entities. The Ordre des comptables agréés du Québec is very pleased to join the other provincial institutes in Canada on this road and, as of August 2010, will begin to accredit new practical experience paths and new employers who will be able to welcome CA students not wishing to practice public accountancy.

For 130 years, the CA profession has been offering the best training in public practice, particularly in the assurance field. This is why students who want to qualify in public accountancy will continue to complete their training period in public practice and acquire the mandatory hours in assurance, audit and taxation. However, CA firms can now create training positions in taxation, business advisory services and other areas, and be accredited by the Ordre in these non-traditional paths that, like training periods in industry or the public sector, will not lead to the practice of public accountancy (auditor).

We hope these changes will create new training opportunities in large firms that will develop non-assurance paths, as well as in small and medium-sized firms that will now be able to obtain accreditation without having all the required hours in public accountancy. If you would like to take advantage of these new rules for CA training offices or obtain additional information, please visit www.catoadvantage.ca and contact Sophie Langis-Lauzière, CA, at s.langis@ocaq.qc.ca.

We remind you that all current academic standards, prerequisites for admission to the profession and professional education program requirements remain unchanged. All CA students will continue to write the same national exam, i.e. the UFE, and in Quebec, the training period remains 24 months.

Yours truly,

Daniel McMahon, FCA
President and CEO

c.c: Human resources manager