

**Education and Recruitment Vice-Presidency**

Montreal, January 13, 2010

## **Important message for students**

### **Public accountancy: the right choice**

The Regulation respecting the public accountancy permit of the Ordre des comptables généraux accrédités du Québec (CGA) was approved by the Quebec government and came into effect on December 17, 2009. This means that the Ordre des CGA du Québec can now issue the first public accountancy permits to some of its members. According to the Ordre des CGA du Québec's annual report, as of March 31, 2009, only 1,079 of its members worked in public practice, for example in CA firms or other public practice firms.

Any change raises questions and the Ordre des comptables agréés du Québec (the Ordre) would like to assure those students who have chosen to work towards the CA designation that now, more than ever, this remains the best option. The CA designation will continue to be predominant in public accountancy and in the financial markets.

### **Professional education makes the difference**

The professional education offered to future CAs meets the highest standards in the accounting field. The graduate diploma program (30-credit minimum), which is open only to the best students, produces versatile, multidisciplinary professionals with unparalleled skills in analysis, synthesis and integration. While a 15-credit certificate may seem attractive because it is quicker to obtain, will it really make you the professional you aspire to be?

The 30-credit graduate diploma required to become a CA provides much more comprehensive professional education as well as the possibility of earning a master's degree by taking only a few extra courses. Why settle for the bare minimum when the choices you make now will be decisive for your entire career? Our surveys clearly show that a professional with a higher level of education is more recognized in the marketplace.

### **A challenging exam that makes us grow!**

The professional CA qualifying exam, the Uniform Evaluation (UFE), is recognized as being one of the most difficult – it's true! But what an interesting challenge for a student striving for performance and success! Thanks to the quality of the graduate diploma program, as well as the students' motivation and will to succeed, more than 90% of UFE writers obtain the prestigious CA designation after completing their training period.

### **Practical experience that makes us successful, versatile and much in demand!**

Currently in Quebec, future CAs complete a training period in CA firms that offer a full range of professional services to a diverse clientele, including organizations of all sizes in all economic sectors. The supervisory structure at these firms provides exceptional, unique training that enables students to develop their competencies surrounded by top-quality professionals. For decades, our firms have developed best practices in public accountancy as well as in many other areas such as taxation, management consulting, forensic accounting, risk management, and governance, to name just a few. By applying these best practices, students can develop a work method that will serve them well throughout their careers. While many of our members opt for careers in public practice, close to 45% of all CAs in Quebec, or approximately 7,800 professionals, work in industry. CAs dominate everywhere and their influence continues to grow with the imminent opening of industry and public sector training opportunities. As is the case in the rest of Canada, the Ordre will soon be able to offer more career paths to CA students, thanks to the addition of diverse and rewarding training periods supervised by experienced CAs within large organizations.

Finally, the vast majority of students who choose the CA designation are recruited at least one year in advance and can complete part of their practical experience during their graduate studies. This training period is paid at a competitive rate and employers offer significant support in guiding students along the CA career path.

### **The designation that makes the difference!**

As experience has shown in other Canadian provinces, there is no doubt that the market will continue to recognize the distinctive competencies of CAs. Surveys confirm that year after year, the highly recognized CA designation supersedes any other accounting designation, and that positive opinion regarding CAs is steadily rising. Currently in Canada, over 90% of public company audits are entrusted to CAs.

### **Know how to make the best choice!**

Becoming a CA means choosing a designation that can be exported worldwide and in all areas of business. It also means choosing the profession with the best infrastructure to support you throughout your career and a path that has proven successful for more than 130 years! We were the first professional accounting order established in Quebec and over the years, CAs have benefited from unrivalled recognition in the field of public accountancy and in many other areas and this will continue regardless of the changes. You will have the opportunity to find a stimulating job with a highly competitive salary, to tackle challenges equal to your ability and to become a versatile and sought-after professional.

So take up the challenge and get ready to celebrate your success when you pass one of the most demanding professional exams. Join the uncontested leaders of the business world and prepare to embark on a career marked by excellence with the CA designation!

Additional information on this subject can be found on our website at [www.ocaq.qc.ca](http://www.ocaq.qc.ca).

For any questions about becoming a CA, write to us at [candidat@ocaq.qc.ca](mailto:candidat@ocaq.qc.ca). We are there to help you make the best career choice for you.