

June 26, 2012



Fellow IFA Members

It was great to see many of you at the Canadian Branch's annual seminar held for the first time in Ottawa on May 17th -18th.

The attendance, weather, program and speakers were outstanding!!

Many thanks to our co-chairs Brian Mustard and Mark Brender, Elizabeth Hooper and her colleagues at Events Management and the behind the scenes efforts and co-ordination of Robert Razienne for putting on a successful seminar. Special thanks are also owed to Brian Ernewein for his assistance in arranging for certain speakers, including government officials from the UK and the U.S. as well as from the Department of Finance and the Canada Revenue Agency.

At the luncheon on May 17th we heard from Ken Vacovec, President of the 2012 IFA Congress being held September 30th to October 4th in Boston. Ken spoke enthusiastically about the progress he and his colleagues are making in what should be a very informative and entertaining Congress. If you have not yet signed up, visit their website at <http://www.ifaboston2012.com/>.

Also at the luncheon, I had the honour on behalf of the Canadian Branch to recognize Robert Couzin's many years of service to IFA in Canada and internationally and for his enormous contribution to enhancing tax policy and administration in Canada.

Next year's seminar will be held in Montreal on May 23rd -24th. Mark it in your calendar!!

The May seminar completed a whirlwind of activity for the Canadian Branch this spring.

On March 28th, the branch held its first Young IFA Network (Y.I.N.) webinar titled, "Upstream Loans: History, Current Proposals and Planning Tools", which was presented by Michael Kandev and Phil Halvorson. Over 170 registrants heard the webinar live in Toronto, Montreal and Calgary while those in Vancouver heard a taped version. Many gathered in PwC's offices to participate in the webinar and to later partake in a reception for further discussion and networking. Thanks to Brian Mustard and Patrick Marley for organizing the webinar and to our presenters.

More Y.I.N. webinars are being planned for the future under the leadership of Michael Kandev. These are great networking opportunity for younger practitioners and I ask all IFA members to encourage your colleagues to participate. These individuals are the future members and leaders of IFA!!

In April, we continued our annual tradition of having one or more distinguished members from the tax profession or academia present a particular tax topic. This year the Branch was honoured that, James Wilson, Elizabeth Johnson and Edwin Kroft, agreed to be panellists. Their topic was, "Taking Stock of GAAR: 1987-2012," and was well received by 224 participants taking part in presentations in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. The travelling lectureship is a significant time commitment for presenters in terms of preparation, travel and actual presentation. The Branch is extremely grateful to Jim, Liz and Ed for their involvement this year.

Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement about our next travelling lectureship to be held in the spring of 2013.

As we head into the summer months Council members will begin planning our activities for the next 12 months, including taking a more strategic look at the future direction of the Branch. We will also be upgrading our website to help keep you better informed of our plans.

Have a great summer!!

Nick Pantaleo, FCA  
President