



**International Fiscal Association (Canadian Branch)
Association fiscale internationale (Section canadienne)
President's Greeting
December 17, 2012**



Season Greetings!!

Like many of you, this is my favourite time of the year – lots of get-togethers with family and friends, time off and maybe a trip. What will make this holiday season a little more special for me is if the Canadian Juniors reclaim gold and the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame end up national collegiate football champions!!

This is also a time to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year and to focus on goals for the next year.

It was an exciting and busy 2012 for IFA Canada!!

We remain one of the largest and most active branches within the IFA global network thanks to a highly motivated executive and council and a very dedicated membership.

One of Council's goals for 2012 was to establish more regular communication with our members and we did so by upgrading and making better use of the IFA Canada website (check it out if you haven't lately, in particular the members' section, at <http://www.ifacanada.org>) and by having regular webinars. More is planned for 2013.

Among our other 2012 highlights were:

- The 14th annual travelling lectureship featured 3 prominent tax practitioners, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Johnson and Ed Kroft, leading a stimulating discussion in 5 cities in March and April on the GAAR - how it has developed and how it has changed the Canadian tax landscape in the 25 years since it was first introduced.
- We held our annual May seminar for the first time in Ottawa, featuring tax practitioners and academics from North America and Europe as well as Finance and Revenue officials from Canada, the U.S. and the UK.
- Our Young IFA Network (Y.I.N.), under the leadership of Michael Kandev and his predecessor, Pat Marley, held two webinars for young tax practitioners - the second took place on November 7th and had over 200 registrants!!
- IFA Canada had a large contingent travel to Boston for the annual IFA Congress, which featured a number of Canadians on various panels.
- We added 7 new members to Council, mostly from Calgary and Vancouver to increase IFA Canada's profile in Western Canada.

- IFA Canada, along with 43 other IFA Branches, participated in a global IFA survey on the status of the OECD Enhanced Relationship initiative. With the help of former senior CRA officials – Angelo Bertolas, Sharon Gulliver, J.J. Lefebvre, Paul Lynch and Fred O’Riordan – we had meetings with the CRA’s Lucie Bergevin, Director General, International and Large Business Directorate, and Jeff Sadrian, Director, Large Business Audit Programs, to discuss the status of the ER initiative in Canada and the CRA’s plans for the future. The results of the IFA survey and its detailed report, including the Canadian responses, can be found at <http://www.ifa.nl/publications/enhancedrelproject/pages/default.aspx>.
- At the Canadian Tax Foundation’s annual conference in Calgary in November, the Y.I.N. group jointly presented two international tax workshops with the CTF’s Young Practitioners group.
- Also at the CTF conference, 11 current and former Council members were among the 38 recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of their significant contributions to the work of the CTF: Brian Arnold, Larry Chapman, Robert Couzin, Sandra Jack, Howard Kellough, Allan Lanthier, Stephen Ruby, Richard Tremblay, Scott Wilkie, Gordon Williamson, and yours truly. In total, 22 IFA members received the award. Go to the IFA website for the complete list. Congratulations to all recipients!!

Plans are now well underway for 2013. Among the things to look out for:

- The first issue of our new members’ newsletter to be released early in the new year.
- Our next Y.I.N. webinar to be held sometime in February.
- Our May seminar to be held in Montreal on May 23-24.
- The annual IFA Congress to be held August 25-30 in Copenhagen.
- In conjunction with the 2013 IFA Congress, we are looking to host a joint seminar with the UK IFA Branch.
- The 2013 travelling lectureship will be held in early fall and will be led by Stephen Richardson, former Associated Deputy Minister of Finance and one of Canada’s leading tax practitioners.

As well, we will begin working on our plan to have a two-day joint seminar with the U.S. IFA Branch in the spring of 2014 and to have our first seminar in Western Canada in Calgary in 2015.

In addition, consistent with our mandate to promote and enhance the study of international tax, one of our priorities will be to take a fresh look at our funding for research in this area. If you have suggestions contact Robert Raizenne.

So, 2013 is shaping up to be another busy and exciting year. Keep a close eye on our website for details of all events. And if you have suggestions for seminar or webinar topics and speakers, please contact any member of Council.

In closing, I wish to extend my thanks on behalf of all members to Elizabeth Hooper and her team at Events & Management for their past and ongoing support in making IFA Canada run as well as it does.

I also want to extend my thanks to Council and, in particular, the Executive – Robert Raizenne, Stephen Bowman, Ron Durand, Brian Mustard and Sandy Jack - for their ongoing efforts and dedication to IFA Canada.

Finally, I want to extend best wishes to all our members and their families for a happy and safe holiday season and my hope that 2013 turns out to be all that you want it to be.

Happy holidays!!!

Nick Pantaleo, FCA
President
