



**International Fiscal Association (Canadian Branch)
Association fiscale internationale (Section canadienne)
President's Greeting
Spring 2013**



Greetings!!

What a great time of year!!

Old man winter is finally starting to be squeezed out and the normal trappings of Spring are everywhere – spring break, Easter, Passover, start of the baseball season, daylight is longer, the Masters is just around the corner and already I have had 6 ½ rounds of golf. Oh yes, Leaf fans are again saying this is the year!!

As always, there are many IFA activities to highlight.

Newsletter – International Tax News Volume 1

Early in the year, our Communications Committee, lead by Brian Mustard, issued IFA Canada's first newsletter highlighting a number of recent international tax developments both in Canada and globally. We received some excellent feedback on the newsletter and are looking for more. I know that Brian and his group welcome input for the next newsletter. Please send your suggestions and comments to office@ifacanada.org

Recent events

I had the privilege of representing IFA Canada at 3 events in recent months.

In early February, Ron Durand and I attended the 75th anniversary of the founding of IFA in The Hague. A jubilee conference took place in the Peace Palace, the same place where IFA was founded in 1938. The conference was attended by 150 academics, public officials, tax advisors and business tax officers from various countries around the world. A summary of the conference proceedings can be found in the news section of the IFA website: www.ifa.nl/news

A number of IFA members were in attendance at a reception to celebrate the release of Essays on Tax Treaties: a Tribute to David A. Ward, co-published by the Canadian Tax Foundation and IBFD. In recognition of David Ward's contribution to international tax law, the book contains a collection of essays on the interpretation and application of international tax treaties written by a number of leading tax professionals and academics from around the world, including a number of IFA Canada members. IFA Canada made a financial contribution to the publication and is donating 25 copies of the book to law and business libraries at Canadian universities in honour of one of Canada's most prominent and respected tax practitioners and a longstanding member of IFA. The book has a place in every tax practitioner's library. Copies are available from the CTF.

Robert Razienne and I attended the Special Sitting of the Tax Court of Canada in the Supreme Court Building in Ottawa followed by dinner at the Chateau Laurier to mark the TCC's 30th anniversary. It was a little strange being one of the few accountants at the event – Larry Chapman and Wayne Adams were the only other accountants present (I think). If some of

the lawyers (and judges) present were also accountants, they were not saying on that day. There is a nice summary of the proceedings and tribute to the TCC in The Arnold Report on the CTF website.

Looking Forward

YIN Webinar – April 4th

Our YIN leader, Michael Kandev, has organized another great webinar for our young practitioners. All members are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

The webinar is being presented by John O'Connor and Jamie Mitchell and is titled, Thin Capitalization: Present, Past and Future. To register, go to <http://www.ifacanada.org/en/events/yin-webinar.html>.

Spring Seminar

The program for our Spring Seminar has been finalized. It will be held on May 23-4 in Montreal at the Centre-Mont Royal. Co-chairs Brian Bloom and Ken Buttenham have put together a program that promises to be informative and as always a great opportunity for IFA members to network with other professionals, academics, judges, and Finance and CRA officials. We are particularly pleased that Bill Robson, President and CEO of the C.D. Howe Institute, will be our luncheon speaker on May 23rd.

For registration and hotel details go to <http://www.ifacanada.org/en/events/2013-seminar.html>.

IFA Congress – Copenhagen (August 25th – 30th)

Registration is now open for this year's Congress. Go to <http://www.ifacopenhagen2013.com> for details and registration.

Stay tuned for an announcement of a possible joint meeting of the Canadian and UK branches in Copenhagen. It will be another reason to go to Copenhagen!!

2013 Travelling Lectureship

The dates for the 2013 Travelling Lectureship have been finalized and are available at <http://www.ifacanada.org/en/events/2012-travelling.html>.

This year's lecturer is Stephen Richardson, Executive Fellow, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary and former Associate Deputy Minister at the Department of Finance. His topic is Canadian Tax Policy for Tax Practitioners: An Introduction.

The session lectureship will be held in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. We are working to add one other eastern city to make this a truly national presentation. Stay tuned!!

There is indeed much going on in 2013!!

Elizabeth Hooper, Heather Dow and their team at Events & Management have done a great job keeping our website (www.ifacanada.org) up to date for future events and seminars.

In addition, all the material and proceedings of our 2012 Spring Seminar in Ottawa and previous YIN webinars are up on the website.

Mark the dates in your calendar for all the events and seminars and keep checking the website for updates.

Enjoy the Spring. I look forward to seeing everyone in Montreal in May!!

Nick Pantaleo, FCA
President

