

CPA Questions a la Carte

Going out to eat helps to build bridges and create a sense of community in a group. In addition to a good breakfast, you are invited to participate in 'CPA Questions a la Carte'. How does it work, simple - you get to pick the questions that our panel will consider. To do this, you will have been given some personal dots. Simply place one or more dots next to a question you would like addressed. Don't see a question, no problem, order it online via Sli.do (see page 8 for instructions). In addition to personal dots, each table will receive group dots. Prior to the end of the mid-morning break, discuss at your table how best to divide these up amongst the questions. For example, you could have one person stick all of the table-dots on their card or you could divide them up evenly at your table.

To make sure the kitchen (e.g. the panel) gets your order, go to the back of the conference room. There a master menu will tally up the various dot-votes. A CPA server will stamp your order, with this stamp you are now eligible for some great door prizes at the end of the session. Questions are organized into the following categories:

- Starters: Questions relating to how to become or train the next generation of CPAs.
- Strategy and Governance: How can CPAs make better decisions to guide our organizations.
- Personal: The role an accounting designation has had and/or how the merger will change this.
- Standards: Questions relating to how accounting standards guide, serve and constrain us as CPAs.
- Systems and Process: how CPA Alberta and the CPA community can deliver public services faster and better.
- Keeping Up: Professional Development and continuous learning as a CPA.
- Just for Fun: don't waste your dots on these question, but see if you can answer them nevertheless.

Sli.do a Question...

Do want to ask a question but are a bit shy speaking in public? Why not 'Sli.do' us your question? Please use #6205 for the event code at: www.sli.do.

Please note that the organizers reserve the right to edit questions for brevity, clarity and good taste.

(Sli.WHAT a Question you Ask? Slid.do is an online tool use to collect and manage audience participation. Basically visit www.sli.do, enter the above event code and post your question.

FMI and Recent Accounting/Finance Thought Leadership

- Accounting for Contaminated Sites UPDATE; May 13, 2015.
- Breaking Out: Public Audit's New Role in a Post-Crash Crisis ; May 13, 2015.
- How to Avoid the Lost Assignment and Task Epidemic; March 11, 2015.
- Consultant's Corner: Why Some Consultants Don't Respond to Government RFPs; March 11, 2015.
- Is High Public Sector Unionization a Problem for the Labour Movement?; March 11, 2015.
- Is the Public Sector Bereft of Strategic Financial Leadership?; Autumn 2013.
- Comptroller Initiatives: Transforming Financial Processes to Better Support Decision Making and Accountabilities; Autumn 2013.
- The IAEA Property, Plant and Equipment Lifecycle Framework; Spring 2014.
- Available: www.fmi.ca/resources/fmi-igf-journal.

Starters: Questions relating to how to become or train the next generation of CPAs.

Is a CPA Training Office designation necessary or can an organization support students via other means?

How will CPA specialization affect future CPAs, what are its positives (e.g. better knowledge on a particular subject area) and its negatives (e.g. reduce mobility and diversity in a career)?

Is the value proposition in becoming a CPA different from the legacy designations and if so how, what has changed, what is better and what has been lost?

How can the public sector continue to be competitive in attracting and training CPAs?

Is there an opportunity for smaller governmental organizations to work with public practice firms to train future CPAs? How can such a partnership be scaled to larger organizations?

Public sector organizations see themselves as competitors when it comes to new employees. Is there an opportunity to better cooperate to help recent graduates and new Canadians learn about a career in all levels of government (not to mention their agencies and affiliates); what would this cooperation look like?

What role can gamification have in developing future accountants both at the formal studies phases of their education and through work experience and

Door Prize Stamp Here... after you have placed your dots on the master question list get your stamp to be eligible for a door prize (Matthew, Mavin and Meiqin have the stamps).

Entrée-Strategy & Governance:

How can CPAs make better organizational decisions?

Post merger, what has changed for the public sector?

Is the CPA merger a good or bad thing for governments, public servants and citizens?

Public service is a very broad term; it suggests a homogeneous industry when the reality is very different. How can CPA Alberta/Canada help CPAs given this diversity? Where are the similarities and how can differences be bridged?

What are the big three public sector accounting challenges (e.g. standards, technology, unique reporting requirements, complex procurement, etc.)/ How can CPA Alberta/Canada assist?

Public service accountants differ from the private sector and public practice colleagues in that there is almost no competition and considerable cooperation. How can CPA Canada/Alberta facilitate this unique relationship?

What should be the role of CPA Canada/Alberta as a lobbyist, subject matter expert or interested party in the affairs of government? When should the society get involved and when should it reserve judgement.

What are the 3 biggest disruptors impacting public sector accounting in the next 5 years?

What role should volunteer organizations such as FMI (and others, e.g. IPAC or GFAO) play in supporting CPA Alberta/Canada?

The Kitchen-Systems & Process:

How CPA Alberta and the CPA community can deliver public services faster and better.

Is auditing working in the Public Sector and how can its function be improved?

How can consulting/accounting firms and CPA Alberta help the public service from re-inventing the wheel?

Salad (Days)-Personal: The role an accounting designation has had and/or how the merger will change this.

Describe a day in your life and the role a CPA plays in that typical day. How has the merger personally affected you?

When you are a small municipality, which cavalry can you call upon to assist? What role can CPA Alberta/Canada play in helping you?

How has the CPA merger changed (if at all) the accounting firm's business?

Is a multi-generational work place affecting you now, how can the public sector manage it and what role does CPA Alberta/Canada have in supporting members or organizations?

Entrée-Standards: Questions on how accounting standards guide, serve and constrain CPAs.

Are the current accounting standards serving the readers of government financial statements? How so and how can they be improved?

Do you agree with this statement (and why): 'The most important financial document in the public organizations is the budget with financial statements a very distant second'. How can CPA Alberta/Canada support the budget process and make the financial statements more relevant?

Is Activity Based Costing in the dead, is cost accounting and public service still a 'thing' and why?

Digestifs-Life after the Public Service: Alumni related questions. Due to retirement or departure from the public service.

How well is the public sector in managing its alumni and how can CPA Alberta/Canada help?

Is there a role for CPA Alberta/Canada in helping retired accountants (public service and otherwise) in finding volunteer opportunities and what is this role?

New Recipes: Keeping: Professional Development and continuous learning as a CPA.

CPAs require 20 hours per annum of verifiable professional development and 120 hours over a rolling three years... huh, what exactly does this mean and what qualifies?

Are there other organizations and resources which can be combined to create effective strategies and solutions to address disruption?

Have accountants embraced new markets within the sphere of practice? For example, should we be the experts in things like IT system controls, content and record management best practices or emerging technologies? If so, how can CPA Alberta re-tool/re-train public sector accountants in these new areas?

Both CPA Alberta and CPA Canada journals are good quality business magazines – but they no longer carry the practical articles of interest to accountants. What is the forum to publish and share this type of content? Public sector accountants can look to the FMI journal for this type of content, should CPA Alberta/Canada increase its collaboration with this journal?

Chez CPA... where the health inspector always leaves assured!

Just for Fun (no dots)

Find 3 people with the same legacy designation that you have never met before.

Name someone who had an RIA designation at some point

Find someone who has used a 'One-Write' ledger or similar tool in their career.

Find someone with two or more legacy designations

Find someone with an accounting designation from outside of Canada