

CIMA Canada at 40

CIMA

Chartered Institute of
Management Accountants

CIMA President/Chair of the board

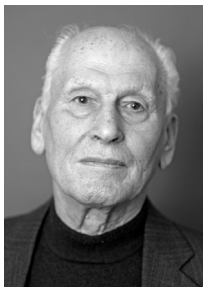
1972 - 1975	Lester Wood
1976 - 1977	Ken Foley
1978 - 1979	Thomas Carney
1980	John Harvie
1981 - 1982	John Richardson
1983 -1984	Ken Foley
1985	John Harvie
1986 - 1988	William Stevenson
1989 - 1990	John Mottram
1991	Paul Sharman
1992	Roger Beach
1993	Tony Thompson
1994 - 1995	Shahid Masud
1996	Ivan Simon-Rasiah
1997 - 1998	Munir Talib
1999 - 2010	Kanish Thevarasa
2011 – 2012	Amal Ratnayake

VALUE ADDED: CIMA CANADA AT 40

“Celebrate what you’ve accomplished, but raise the bar a little higher each time you succeed.”

Mia Hamm

‘Holistic’ is not a word often associated with the profession of accounting. Yet, as the history of CIMA Canada illustrates, it is this whole which is vital to successful accounting. Throughout Canada, CIMA members contribute to the prosperity of private enterprise, and of the public sector, by espousing an integrated approach to accounting, one in which accountants must adopt a global perspective.



As past CIMA Canada Vice Chairperson (1985, 1987) Jack Garland emphasizes, whereas the image of accountants is of professionals explaining past events, the duty of a management accountant is to be a constant, supportive presence. As such, CIMA Canada members are ideally placed to fulfill their role: advocates, resource-persons, professionals equipped to ensure that their organisations pay attention to a rapidly-changing milieu.

CIMA Canada: 1972-1982

To the average Canadian, the decade spanning the early seventies to the early eighties was replete with possibilities. During this time, we became more acutely aware of the extent to which global events could impact our national reality. This era, marking the birth of the Canadian perspective of diversity marked the nascence of CIMA Canada. The agency which was the ICMA Toronto Centre of 1972, would advance to Branch status by 1982, and this transition would be guided by a triad of visionary presidents: Messrs. Carney, Wood, and Foley.



The first impression of Thomas Carney is that of a warm, expansive, welcoming personality, with glimpses of more—more resilience, greater determination, a passion to see the job done well. Although Mr. Carney would shrug modestly, his essence is that of a steely disposition, and a steady hand, both of which served him well during his service as a pilot during World War II. These very characteristics would see him through to accreditation by the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants (Glasgow, Scotland), and to his eventual role as Deputy Chair of CIMA Canada (1972-1977), and President/Chair (1978-1979). As is typical of all CIMA Canada members, Mr. Carney considered the evolution of CIMA Canada from a number of perspectives: the need to establish reciprocity with other Canadian organizations for professional accountants, recognition of the CIMA designation by Canadian employers, and the appreciation that, “...one size does not fit all.” Through his willingness to acknowledge, and harness the diverse experiences and strengths of CIMA Canada members, Mr. Carney helped to bring CIMA—the global brand—to Canada, contributing greatly to the CIMA Canada of today.

Indeed, as CIMA's first President/Chair, Mr. Lester Wood emphasizes, today's CIMA Canada is an institution which empowers the individual to accept responsibility for their professional advancement, through CIMA qualification, and with the support of other members of the CIMA Canada organization. It is noteworthy that Mr. Wood's every communication emphasizes individuality: the responsibility of each member to acknowledge unique positions and capacities, all the better to enhance the group

One could envision the first decade of CIMA Canada as that of a jet launching into flight—the numbing speeds, steady guidance, and the thrust needed to overcome gravity. While Mr. Carney provided a level of kinetic energy, and Mr. Wood maintained a steadfast view of the horizon, it would be fair to consider Ken Foley as contributing forward thrust. Among the CIMA members interviewed for this piece, each one mentioned Mr. Foley as CIMA Canada's anchor, a member who could be relied on for counsel and advice, a conduit for information, who proved more efficient and timely than any 'Blackberry.' Ken would always offer words of encouragement to CIMA Canada members, and would often provide material support for CIMA Canada activities.

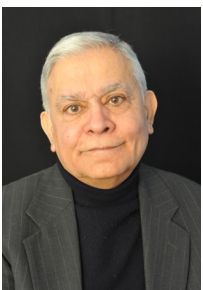


During his role as CIMA Canada President/Chair (1977; 1983-84), Mr. Foley did the work of two persons. His 'secret' is that he actually had a second person working alongside him: Mrs. Foley. Through the dedication of the Foleys, their exemplifying the strength of partnership, CIMA Canada would become not only a professional organization, but a unit, one in which a familial approach was a component of the practical and professional obligations of the organization.

As such, CIMA's first decade would usher in a period of growth and development, and transition.

1982-1992: The Power of Prime

Whereas the birth of CIMA Canada emphasized the power of a triad in establishing firm footing, the growth of CIMA throughout its second decade would prove the power of prime.



Mathematical principle holds the indivisibility of the prime number. As CIMA Canada emerged through its second decade, it would be five members whose unitary efforts would ensure the cohesion—indeed, the soundness—of CIMA Canada. Together, Abid Raza and Paul Sharman, Roger Beach, Jack Garland, and John Mottram would contribute their respective strengths to the expansion of the organization. True to the tenet of holism in management accounting, this group would manage the CIMA Canada which would become the professional home of city councillors, officers of the civil service, managers of enterprise, and philosophers.

A management accountant by profession, Jack Garland exemplifies all that is erudite about the profession. In discussing wider global, socio-economic issues, Mr. Garland emphasizes that the exemplary management accountant is one who is able to appreciate the connections between industries, sectors, and international interests. In relating his views of personal responsibility, and professional performance, Mr. Garland stands out as a senior member of CIMA Canada, true, but one who maintains a thoroughly modern view of social events. Doubtless, this approach enabled him to contribute to the growth of CIMA Canada, throughout his membership, and particularly during his tenure as Vice Chair (1985: 1987).



The success of CIMA Canada illustrates that achievement is a combination of an astute perspective, and direct, tenacious action. Perhaps more than any other member, Mr. Roger Beach (President, 1992) brought a level of forthrightness in communications between CIMA Canada, and the CIMA UK headquarters. Mr. Beach's approach was guided by a single, clear perspective: CIMA, an established, global brand, did not need promotion. However, CIMA Canada had a duty to support its members by enabling their entry into the Canadian workforce through increasing the visibility of CIMA Canada, and by educating prospective employers, ensuring their awareness of the CIMA designation..

Thus, the decade spanning the early eighties to the early nineties was one in which CIMA Canada maintained its cohesiveness through vision, and tenacity. With the addition of a broader, civil perspective, and under the guidance of member-entrepreneurs, CIMA Canada grew, emerging as an even more potent resource for its members, many of whom had immigrated to Canada from throughout the British commonwealth, and all of whom viewed their CIMA qualification as priceless.

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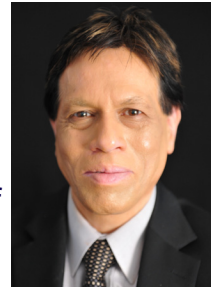
During this second decade of the existence of CIMA Canada, the knowledge and perspectives of Paul Sharman and Abid Raza, and that of John Mottram would add significantly to the systematic approach adopted by the executive. Interestingly, Messrs. Sharman and Raza would effect change within the public sector—respectively, as Councillor of the City of Burlington, and as a specialist within the Office of the Auditor General, Canada. Further proof of the versatility of holders of CIMA designation would be evident in the exactness with which John Mottram manages his work, as principal of the firm, John L. Mottram CPA, LLC.

1992-2002: Visible, and Indivisible



CIMA Canada focused its first two decades on establishment of the body, and provision of practical, professional, and educational support to members. Subsequent decades would emerge with an expanded aim: that of increasing the visibility of CIMA Canada, and enhancing the profile of the organization. The impetus for this work originates with outstanding members, and an executive which exemplifies the high standards of their predecessors.

The steady hand of Shahid Masud (President, 1994-1995) enabled CIMA Canada to maintain its course, despite the competing interests of other professional bodies of accounting, rapid global change, and increasing social and political challenges. Mr. Masud's guidance, and the astute input of Munir Talib, entrepreneur (President, 1997-1998) ensured that the substantive work of CIMA Canada would continue to be matched by the drive for recognition.



2002-2012: Place in History

The most recent decade started off, literally, in a place of history: the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). In 2002, under the leadership of Kanish Thevarasa, the Toronto branch of CIMA celebrated its 30 year anniversary at the ROM, with a gathering of members, supporters, and friends. In acknowledgement of the organization's continued expansion in Canada, the President of CIMA, Harry Byrnes, took the opportunity to formally declare the organization, CIMA Canada.



With the conferring of the formal name, CIMA Canada would be characterized by even greater visibility, improved efficiencies in the use of resources, and extensive acknowledgement by the CIMA UK headquarters. In the latter case, election of Mahes Wickramasinghe to the CIMA UK Council, and appointment of Amal Ratnayake to the Members' Services Committee—both first-time instances of CIMA Canada involvement in central Council—emphasize the growing influence of the chapter.

The presidency of Kanish Thevarasa (1999-2010) was marked by steady growth in CIMA's activities. Attendance at events now regularly exceeds 100 members and students, and CIMA Canada has formed strong working partnerships with a range of public and private sector bodies including the City of Toronto, Royal Bank of Canada, the TTC and recruitment firm Robert Half. Perhaps most indicative of this period of growth is the extent to which the effectiveness of CIMA has been underpinned by a more explicit mission, as emphasized by the revised Constitution, and incorporation of CIMA Canada as a not-for-profit entity, an undertaking spearheaded by Veena Venkatraman, Michael Lam, and Amal Ratnayake.



As importantly, with the fullest support of CIMA Canada's current Chair of the Board, Amal Ratnayake, and Board Member Ranil Mendis, CIMA Canada has expanded its civic role that it began during the leadership of Kanish Thevarasa. The strategy to promote CIMA through a number of high-profile events, including the CIMA Mayor's Cricket Cup (Toronto), the CIMA Canada Mayor's School Cricket Tournament, and the 'Cricket Across the Pond' youth initiative; CIMA Canada continues to exhibit a commitment to a tenet of management accounting: management must be preceded by measurement—identifying available resources, and planning for their most effective and efficient use. CIMA Canada's greatest testament continues to be its members, those professionals who continue to dedicate time, effort, and their material resources to strengthening the organization. Through the ongoing work of Martin Saxton, plans are underway for the launch of CIMA's first-ever conference in Canada, scheduled for the Fall of 2012.



The organisation is richer due to all the volunteers that support the CIMA mission in Canada. This includes the board in Toronto but also the regional representatives: Kasun Abeyawardene and Steve Kerr (Calgary), Simon Ma (Ottawa), and Stewart Marshall (Vancouver)

The Journey, The Achievements

No journey is well undertaken without acknowledging predecessors. Of those Presidents who guided the path for CIMA Canada, in addition to those previously mentioned, it would be fitting to acknowledge the following past Presidents: John Harvie (1980), John Richardson (1981-82), Bill Stevenson (1986-87), Tony Thompson (1993), Ivan Simon-Rasiah (1996), and Kanish Thevarasa (1999-2010). It bears note that Mr. Thevarasa (1999-2010) holds the record for the longest-serving President. His outstanding contribution was recognized by the award of the Institute's Silver Medal in 2011. This is the first time that such an honour has been bestowed upon a member from the Americas.

Indeed, Mr. Thevarasa's acknowledgement by CIMA Council followed a precedent set by Ranil Mendis, who was the first CIMA Canada member to be awarded a medal—a bronze, in 2008—for his ongoing, arduous work to maintain the public relations drive which would bring CIMA Canada to a greater level of visibility, and awareness.

Given its auspicious journey over the last four decades leading to this celebration, the next four decades will mark even greater success for CIMA Canada.

In Memoriam

As we reflect on CIMA Canada at 40, we also celebrate the life and contribution of Tony Thompson, longest-serving board member who volunteered for 23 years, in whose memory CIMA Canada continues to advance.

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