



The Canadian  
Accounting  
Hall of Fame

Le Temple  
de la renommée comptable  
du Canada

### **Barbara Carle-Thiesson – inducted 2023**



A graduate of Brandon University in Manitoba, Barb Carle-Thiesson articulated for her CA with Ernst & Ernst in Edmonton, and then went to Grande Prairie, some 500 miles north-west of Edmonton, where she established her own practice in 1983. Eight years later she moved to Nanaimo, B.C. as a partner in Purtzki Carle-Thiesson Chartered Accountants, which in 2002 became Tyce Carle-Thiesson Chartered Accountants. This firm

was acquired by MNP LLP (formerly known as Myers Norris Penny LLP) in 2012, from which she retired in 2018; she continued to serve many community organizations subsequent to her retirement.

The most notable feature of Barb's career is that, from her earliest days, she consistently made time to serve the accounting profession, in a variety of senior roles, even when a sole practitioner or with one partner. Her contributions were particularly valued in that her perspective as a partner in a small firm outside the major centres was often absent from the profession's committees, and especially its senior leadership.

Throughout her career Barb sought to expand her knowledge and skills. This trait has been evidenced by her membership of both the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (2000-2012) and the Canadian Institute of Financial Planners (1994-2004), her Associate membership of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (1998), and her completion of the Institute of Corporate Directors program – ICD.D (2007).

Barb's exemplary contributions to the accounting profession may be summarized under the four bodies to which she has contributed:

- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta: Elected Council member (1985-1990); she was also member/chair of numerous committees and secretary to the council (1984-1985).
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC (ICABC): Elected Council member (1993-1998). She returned to the BC Council in 2003 and served as the Institute's Chair/President (2004 – 2005) when the Institute celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She also served as member/chair of various committees, including the Executive Committee and the Taxation Committee (Chair, 1992-1994). She served on the Disciplinary Committee of ICABC (1995-1999). A retired CEO of CPABC/ICABC noted that she was always in demand for committee service because she was "such a strong contributor".
- Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants: member, Board of Evaluators which set/administered the national Uniform Final Examination (UFE), and also provided oversight of the Competency Map (2005-2008); a former chair described her as a "leader in the room", whose views were always sought by the other Board members. (A staff member estimated that she contributed over 250 hours of volunteer time in each of her 3 years on the Board.) She was also, member, Accounting Standards Oversight Council (2008-2009), on which she provided significant input to the standards on Notice to Reader engagements; Board member 2009-2016, before and during the merger of the three professional accounting bodies, resulting in CPA Canada.

In a strong letter of support for this nomination a retired CEO of CPABC/ICABC wrote:

"In the early 2000s a consistent complaint from members working in or with small business was the spiralling complexity of accounting standards. At the time, alignment with US standards was a key driver ... I heard that the Standards Oversight Council was to hold an open meeting in Calgary and applied to make a presentation. We developed a presentation, and Barb and I went to Calgary. Our presentation caused a stir: a pivotal component was Barb explaining the challenges faced by small business and their accountants in dealing with the "one size fits all" standards. The Council members were very sympathetic and I was later told that the presentation was a key moment in the journey towards differential standards. Barb was invited to become a member of the Council and helped them work through these changes. I have no doubt that Barb's calm yet authoritative delivery won the day."

- CPA Canada: Board member, during the crucial initial years of the merged bodies (2013-2016).

She contributed to three bodies in the business community and government:

- BC Institute of Agrologists: lay member of the Audit and Practice Review Committee (2021 – current).
- Office of the Auditor General of BC: Chair, Internal Audit Committee (2010-2014).
- Taxpayers' Ombudsman Consultative Committee, member (2016-2017).

Barb's contributions to educational institutions have included:

- Vancouver Island University (as it transitioned from Malaspina University-College, and changed from a unicameral to bicameral governance structure): Member, Board of Governors (2008-2012) and Vice-Chair (2010-2012); Chair, Audit Committee (2008-2010); Chair, Finance Committee (2010-2012).
- University of Alberta: teaching for the CMA and CGA programs through the Department of Extension (1976-1978), and working as a TA in the Math Department (1976-1978).
- Grande Prairie Regional College: teaching accounting and taxation as a sessional lecturer (1983-1986).

She made contributions to several not-for-profit organizations other than educational institutions:

- Community Living BC: Board member (2016-2022), six years being the maximum term for a Board member; member (2016-2022) and chair (2018-2022) Finance and Audit Committee; Vice-Chair of the Board (2020).
- BC Housing: Commissioner (2018-2022); Chair, Audit and Risk Management Committee (2018-2022); member, Capital Review Committee (2018-2022). (An officer of BC Housing detailed seven key initiatives made by Barb as chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee during her term of service.)
- First People's Cultural Foundation: Member, Investment Committee (2010-2011).
- Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation: Board member, Treasurer and Chair, Audit and Finance Committee (2007-2009).
- Nanaimo Curling Club: Chair (2003-2004) and various other offices including that of Treasurer.
- St. Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie: Treasurer (1981-1984).
- Nanaimo School District: member, Action Plan Committee (1992-1993).
- Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce: Board member (1988-1990).

Barb's extraordinary record of service has been recognized in the following ways:

- Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC: FCA/FCPA (2000).
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta: FCA/FCPA (2001).
- Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012).
- Chartered Professional Accountants of BC: Lifetime Achievement Award (2020).