



The Canadian
Accounting
Hall of Fame

Le Temple
de la renommée comptable
du Canada

Richard F. “Dick” Haskayne – inducted 2022



Dick Haskayne came from the small community of Gleichen, Alberta, about 50 miles east of Calgary. He was born in 1934; throughout his life he has attributed his ethical compass and sense of community to values absorbed in Gleichen, during the difficult final years of the great economic depression of the 1930s, and through the 1940s. He went on to study for a B.Comm. degree at the University of Alberta, graduating in 1956. He then moved to Calgary where, in training to become a CA, he performed the audits for a wide range of companies; he described the work as “an excellent opportunity to get inside an operation and see the big picture .. the principles of what the numbers mean.”

After getting his CA in 1959 he spent the next 20 years at Hudson’s Bay Oil and Gas, where he rose right through the ranks to become President (1980-82). His entire career was in the oil and gas industry; his ability to see the big picture led to him then becoming President of Home Oil and Interhome Energy (1982-91), and Chairman of the Board of MacMillan Bloedel (when it was acquired by Weyerhaeuser), NOVA (1992-98), TransAlta Corporation (1996-98) and Fording (2001-03). His peers in the business community have described his work at these companies as “classic business case studies”.

In addition to these corporate leadership roles Dick was appointed director of some of Canada’s largest companies, including Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Manulife, TransCanada Pipelines, Alberta Energy Company, EnCana and Crestar Energy Inc. He noted in his autobiography that for a while he was making some 40 trips a year to Toronto, to attend board and other meetings. He has played an important role in advancing ethical standards in business, corporate governance and social responsibility in Canada’s oil patch and beyond, and has been an exemplary philanthropist.

Universities and colleges have been the main beneficiaries of his philanthropy and leadership, particularly the University of Calgary. He served as Chair of its Board of Governors (1990-96), and is now Board Chair Emeritus. He endowed bursaries, scholarships and the Haskayne Chair of Accounting (2001), including several in the name of his deceased wife Lee and subsequent

wife, Lois. Also, in 2002 he donated 219 acres of land, valued at \$8.7 million, to the School of Business; in 2006 it was purchased by the City for \$20 million, and a foundation for the School was established, with the School being renamed the “Haskayne School of Business.” In addition, he endowed bursaries and scholarships at the University of Alberta, Mount Royal College, and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Three Alberta universities have honoured him with honorary doctorates: Alberta (1996), Calgary (1996) and Lethbridge (2021), and he has won various other awards from Alberta universities and colleges.

Dick’s contributions to the accounting profession included membership of the high-profile commission of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants to study the Public’s Expectations of Audits (“Macdonald Commission”) (1986-88). Over the years he has been a regular guest lecturer at the Haskayne School of Business, encouraging students to enter the accounting profession. In his many presentations to the business community, he has repeatedly emphasized the relationship between accounting and the ethics of business.

Dick continues to value his upbringing in rural Alberta. In 2005 he donated \$1,000,000 to support community projects and student awards in Gleichen, Cluny and Bassano. Also in the broader community, he served as a Trustee of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research in the 1980s and 1990s, and as a Board member of the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and Alberta Bone and Joint Institute during 2004-14. And with regard to health care, the Sinneave Family Foundation established the Richard Haskayne Post-Secondary Scholarship for Students on the Autism Spectrum in 2008, and in 2014 the Alberta Children’s Hospital made him a Life Member.

His contributions have led to a remarkable number of awards and other forms of recognition. In the context of the Canadian Accounting Hall of Fame, it is particularly pertinent to note that he has already been inducted into three other such halls:

- Canadian Business Hall of Fame – inducted 2004.
- Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame - inducted 2005.
- Calgary Business Hall of Fame – inducted 2005.

Also, in 1995 he was made an Honorary Member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta.

Dick has been honoured by his own profession. The predecessor body to CPA Alberta elected him a Fellow (FCA) in 1990; then gave him its Distinguished Service Award in 1995; and in 2001 gave him its Lifetime Achievement Award. The latter is “to formally recognize Fellows of the Chartered Professional Accountants who have continued to render exceptional services to the profession or whose achievements in their careers or in the community have earned them distinction and brought honour to the profession.” In 2000 he was also designated a Fellow (F.ICD) by The Institute of Corporate Directors – the highest distinction for board directors in Canada.

His country, his province and his city have all recognized him. In 1997 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada for his “high ethical business standards” and “helping lead fundraising campaigns for several organizations such as the University of Calgary and the United Way”. Then in 2006 he received the Alberta Order of Excellence for his many contributions to Alberta that “.. reflect his considerable work ethic, his reputation for upholding the highest standard of personal and business ethics and his considerable pride in his province. He has been an important contributor to Alberta’s business community and the quality of life and opportunities enjoyed by all Albertans, particularly those in rural Alberta.” Also in 2006 the Haskayne Legacy Park was named for him by the City of Calgary.

For a Canadian, a special honour was Dick’s receipt from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars of the Smithsonian Institution: The Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship (2004).

In 2008 he won a Bronze Medal (Axiom Business Book Awards) for his autobiography *Northern Tigers, Building Ethical Canadian Corporate Champions*, written with Paul Grescoe.