



The Canadian
Accounting
Hall of Fame

Le Temple
de la renommée comptable
du Canada

STEVE ALLAN – Inducted 2025



Steve Allan's career embodies a profound commitment to the accounting profession, the business world, and the betterment of his community. As a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), he has distinguished himself through expertise in complex financial matters, strategic leadership, and unwavering dedication to service. This biography explores his multifaceted career, highlighting key contributions and the impact he has had on Alberta and beyond.

Allan's professional journey is rooted in a deep understanding of accounting principles and a dedication to upholding the highest ethical standards. As a CPA, he developed a specialized expertise in corporate restructuring, insolvency, and forensic accounting. These areas demand a keen analytical mind, meticulous attention to detail, and the ability to navigate challenging and often high-stakes situations.

His involvement in high-profile cases like Abacus Cities Ltd., Principal Group Ltd., Canadian Airlines, Bre-X and as Commissioner of the Public Inquiry into Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns is a testament to his capabilities. These cases, each with its unique complexities, required him to analyze vast amounts of financial data, identify irregularities, and provide expert testimony. His work in these matters helped to bring clarity and resolution to situations that had significant implications for stakeholders, creditors, and the public.

Beyond his direct involvement in financial casework, Allan has played a significant role in shaping the accounting profession in Alberta. He served as President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta, a prestigious position that reflects the respect and trust he earned from his peers. In this role, he was responsible for leading the organization, setting strategic priorities, and advocating for the interests of its members. He guided the institute through periods of change and ensured that it remained a relevant and valuable resource for accounting professionals.

Allan's ongoing involvement with CPA Alberta further demonstrates his commitment to the profession. He has actively participated in governance and strategic planning initiatives, contributing his insights and expertise to help the organization achieve its goals. His contributions have helped to ensure that CPA Alberta remains a strong and effective voice for the accounting profession in the province.

Allan's influence extends beyond the accounting profession into the broader business community. He has held significant governance roles in organizations that play a crucial role in Alberta's economic development. As Chair of Destination Canada, he worked to promote Canada as a premier tourist destination, attracting visitors from around the world and generating economic activity.

His role as Chair of Calgary Economic Development provided him with an opportunity to directly impact the economic growth and diversification of Calgary. He played a key role in attracting new businesses to the city, supporting existing businesses, and fostering a climate of innovation and entrepreneurship. He recognized the importance of diversifying Calgary's economy beyond the energy sector and worked to attract companies in other industries, such as technology, manufacturing, and tourism.

One of Allan's most significant achievements in this area was his instrumental role in establishing the \$100 million Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund. This fund is a strategic investment tool designed to attract investment to Calgary and support projects that will create jobs, stimulate innovation, and enhance the city's economic competitiveness. His vision and leadership were essential to bringing this fund to fruition, and it has had a significant impact on Calgary's economy.

Allan's commitment to community service is deeply ingrained in his personal and professional life. He has dedicated countless hours to volunteering with various non-profit organizations, making a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals.

His long-time involvement with the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede reflects his passion for Alberta's western heritage and his commitment to supporting this iconic community event. He has served in various roles within the Stampede organization, including Chair of the Boards of both the Stampede and its charitable foundation, contributing his time, expertise, and resources to ensure its continued success.

Allan was one of the founders of the Top 7 Over 70 program in Calgary. Top 7 Over 70 recognizes the unique contributions of seniors AFTER the age of 70 to business, sports, arts and the community. The program also inspires younger people to build a foundation for contributing to their community throughout their lives. Allan and his colleagues are now working to expand Top 7 Over 70 throughout Canada.

Allan's work with the Rotary Club of Calgary is particularly noteworthy. He has been actively involved in mentoring disadvantaged youth, providing them with guidance, support, and encouragement to help them achieve their full potential. He understands the challenges faced by young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and is committed to helping them overcome these challenges and build successful lives.

His co-founding of the Rotary Tom Jackson Stay-in-School program for Indigenous youth, and its successor program, is a testament to his commitment to reconciliation and his belief in the importance of education. This program provides Indigenous students with the resources and support they need to stay in school, succeed academically, and pursue their dreams.

Allan's dedication to First Nations communities is a defining aspect of his career. His efforts to build relationships, promote understanding, and support Indigenous initiatives have earned him an Honorary Chieftainship by the Five Tribes of the Treaty 7, a rare and prestigious honor.

His service as Vice Chair of the Neyaskweyahk Trust Fund for the Ermineskin Cree Nation demonstrates his commitment to supporting the financial well-being of Indigenous communities. The trust fund provides financial resources for education, health, and other community development initiatives.

Allan's work with First Nations communities is guided by a deep respect for Indigenous cultures and a commitment to reconciliation. He believes that building strong relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities is essential for creating a more just and equitable society.

Throughout his distinguished career, Steve Allan has received numerous awards and accolades in recognition of his exceptional contributions. These include the Alberta Order of Excellence, the ICAA Lifetime Achievement Award, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and the King Charles III Coronation Medal. These honors are a testament to his hard work, dedication, and the profound impact he has had on the accounting profession, the business community, and the community at large.

Steve Allan's legacy is one of professional excellence, strategic leadership, and unwavering commitment to service. He has made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals and has helped to build a stronger, more prosperous, and more equitable Alberta. His contributions will continue to be felt for generations to come. He exemplifies the qualities of a true leader and a dedicated community servant.