



**JANUARY 2010.** On 6 November 2009, the Ontario government approved Public Accounting as one of six exceptions to the labour-mobility section of Canada's **Agreement on Internal Trade**. All entrants to Ontario from other provinces now have to meet Ontario's Public Accounting Council (PAC) standards to be licensed to practise public accounting.

In her response to **Terence Corcoran's** 23 July editorial: "Ontario to protect CA monopoly", **Glorianne Stromberg**, Chair of PAC, claims that CAs welcome competition. She argues that CAs do not control PAC, and points out that 8 council members are appointed by the three accounting bodies and the remaining 9 by the Ontario government. She fails to mention that, of the 8 council members appointed by the accounting bodies, 4 are appointed by ICAO and 2 each by CGAO and SMAO. And, of the 9 government appointments, one vacancy has remained. After six decades of CA monopoly on public accounting in Ontario, one can only expect the government-appointees to be more familiar with CAs than with CGAs or CMAs, as these 8 appointees, 4 of whom are lawyers, have likely worked only with CAs before. The cards are stacked.

In his editorial, Corcoran asks why, nine years after an Internal Trade Panel's finding that Ontario's licensing system of public accountants was a barrier to mobility and five years after the enactment of the Public Accounting Act

in response to the finding, CAs are still the only accountants practising public accounting in Ontario. Stromberg explains that only CAs have met the PAC standards. She neglects to mention that the PAC standards bear a striking resemblance to CA's qualification standards. The playing field is far from level.

On 30 November 2009, the federal government announced an accord with the provinces to recognize foreign-trained workers. Under the accord, known as **Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications**, foreign-trained workers who apply to be licensed to work in certain fields will be advised within one year whether their qualifications will be recognized. Among the eight occupations the first stage of the accord will recognize by December 2010 are financial auditors and accountants.

It will be interesting to see if the qualifications of a public accountant trained overseas are recognized in Ontario, while those of one trained in another province are not.

### ...NEWS FLASH...

Québec CGAs win right to public accounting.

#### See You in Vancouver!

CanMAPP AGM: 22 January 2010

CMA BC PD Weekend: 22 ~ 24 January 2010

Location: Hilton Vancouver Metrotown

For agenda and registration, visit: [CanMAPP.ca](http://CanMAPP.ca)

CanMAPP is a self-help group of accounting practitioners from coast to coast. Everyone is invited to participate in its events and in its organization.