

Non-Member Production Accountants

Information about CAPPAs application for Self-Regulation

May 23, 2017 - We have been given the “go ahead” from the Professional Governance Unit of the Ministry of Labor to resume our application work after our several month hold due to the government’s internal review of legislation. As such, we are “sleeves rolled up” on our 3+ year project.

Important note to Production Accountants who are not currently CAPPAs members - There will be a “grandfathering” aspect to enrollment and Right of Title upon CAPPAs registration under the Professional and Occupational Association Registration Act (POARA). This is important and Production Accountants may wish to take this under advisement now. For example, to be grandfathered as a member with Right of Title including Designation, there will be qualifying criteria which may include a combination of PA experience plus a certain number of consecutive membership in good standing years with CAPPAs prior to registration [under POARA].

So for example, if the number of consecutive membership in good standing years prior to registration under POARA was three years and CAPPAs application under POARA was approved in 2020, then to back-track, Production Accountants would need to be members in good standing in years 2017, 2018 and 2019. From that point on, there may be a narrower qualifying criteria for membership and accompanying Right of Title and use of Designation.

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Self-Regulation Information

1. What is Self-Regulation?

Through legislation, the Alberta government may delegate self-governing responsibilities to professional organizations. The Professional Governance Unit (PGU) within the Ministry of Labour oversees 9 Acts which govern 25 self-regulating professions. Self-regulation is the government sanctioning, and overseeing our doing so, the responsibility of daily governance of our profession.

2. Why become Self-Regulated?

The privilege of Self-Regulation is an opportunity to elevate the standing of Production Accountants. It is a professional status deserving of those fully trained and engaged in the career of production accounting. It is also represents our collective identity, our brand as a sector.

The guiding principle with any professional organization becoming Self-Regulated is that of safeguarding the Public Interest. Professional governance shall not be self-serving but will be fair, transparent and equitable to the public.

3. What act would CAPPAs Self-Regulation fall under?

Professional and Occupational Association Registration Act (POARA)

4. What other professions are Self-Regulated under POARA?
 1. Alberta Human Ecologist and Home Economist Association (1989)
 2. Supply Chain Management Association Alberta (1989)
 3. Alberta Professional Planners Institute (1989)
 4. Institute of Certified Management Consultants of Alberta (1991)
 5. Society of Local Government Managers of Alberta (1991)
 6. Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (1991)
 7. Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta (1993)
 8. Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (1993)
 9. Alberta Assessors' Association (1994)
 10. Alberta Shorthand Reporters Association (1996)
 11. Canadian Information Processing Society of Alberta (1997)
 12. Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta (2001)
 13. Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (2010)

5. What is the process to become Self-Regulated?

- a) Receive affirmative vote from membership to proceed (completed)
- b) Advise the Minister of our intention (completed)
- c) Submit application to GoA (in progress)

6. How long would the process to become Self-Regulated take?

The process is lengthy; 3 – 5 years is a typical timeframe.

7. What would this mean for CAPPa to receive approval to Self-Regulation?

Once registered, the association receives official governmental sanctioning of the daily governance and regulation of the profession of Production Accounting. The responsibilities of the association include developing standards of practice, ensuring practitioner competency and maintaining a process to hear complaints.

8. How would this be different from the way CAPPa currently governs?

As a Self-Regulated Association, CAPPa would be empowered to enforce a set of standards of practice and code of ethics to protect the reputation of the profession and protect the interests of stakeholders and the public. As well, we would also become responsible to investigate complaints and undertake appropriate action. Board members would include public member appointments of a ratio set by the government (such as 1 in 10).

9. What would this mean for the profession of Production Accounting?

Production Accounting would be a recognized profession with the appropriate level of standards, competency and practise. The granting of regulatory authority provides a framework for the regulation of our profession. As with other regulated professions, this provides comfort and reliability to the Public, Government, Employers and other Industry Stakeholders. Protection of the Public is a primary benefit.

10. What would this mean for me as a CAPPAs Member?

CAPPAs Members who are Productions Accountants, Revenue Accountants, Royalty Accountants and similar positions would be able to benefit from “right of title” and the many other benefits of being a part of the professional association. Membership tells others, such as employers, that you comply with a high level of standard and ethical conduct.

11. What does “right of title” mean?

Right of title is the right by CAPPAs Members (only) to use the “designated title”.

12. What does “designated title” mean?

A designated title means the name and title and abbreviations of the name and title designated.

The title could, for example (only), “Production Accountant”

The abbreviations could, for example (only), be “PA”

13. What if my job title is different?

This cannot be answered today, however the Ministry is aware of other related job titles and we will fully explore this in our application process. While we would not be able to include all job titles or less common job titles, we will certainly address with the Ministry “Revenue Accountant” and “Royalty Accountant” along with “Production Accountant”. An example of a solution *could* be “Production Accountant (Revenue)” or “Production Accountant (Royalty)”. These are examples of potential solutions and determinations will be made as we work our way through the process. Regardless of the solution, there would likely be only one designation abbreviation (initials), such as PA.

14. Could I use the designation if my job title is different or if I am not currently working as a Production Accountant?

This cannot be answered today, however we could anticipate the right of title separate from one’s current job title. The right to title would be granted based on the criteria that membership will vote on at a later date and as approved by the Government of Alberta. Some early assumptions are that the qualifying requirements to the title and designation would be issued regardless of current job title. No guarantees can be offered today, but it would be reasonable to imagine the following examples: Jane Smith, Joint Venture Accountant, PA (or whatever initials the title granted to us would be), or John Brown, Director of Vendor Sales, PA.

15. Would every Production Accountant member be entitled to use the “right of title” and designation?

As mentioned in question 16, the right to title would be granted based on the criteria that membership will vote on at a later date and as approved by the Government of Alberta. We would expect some form of “grandfathering” based on criteria agreed upon, such as X number of years as a production accountant, and/or X number of years as a CAPPAs member, and/or those with a CAPPAs certificate as well as a go-forward criteria. In addition, there may be additional ongoing requirements to be met such as X amount of continuing professional development hours per Y amount of time.

16. What would this mean for CAPPAs Members who are not Production Accountants?

Current CAPPAs Members who are not Production Accountants or similar or trained as Production Accountants and who are Members to stay informed, engaged and networked (such as vendors, government, educators) will be offered an *Associate* level of Membership.

17. What would this mean for Production Accountants who are not Members of CAPPAs?

Self-regulation offers “Right of Title” but does not prevent others from working as a Production Accountant, nor does it restrict the level of practice. They could not, however, call themselves “Production Accountants” or publicize/promote themselves as “Production Accountants”.

18. What is the importance of being Self-Regulated?

Regulation protects the professional titles of Members within CAPPAs as a registered association. CAPPAs, with Membership, will establish and enforce a set of standards for our association. By restricting the use of a designated title to only those Members that have met the professional requirements of the association, this provides valuable information to consumers, employers and other stakeholders which in turn enables them to make informed choices when making hiring and other decisions. By having standards of practice and ensuring ongoing practitioner competence (and the process to hear complaints) this provides a measure of protection to the public and others. Self-regulation also indicates the maturity of the profession of Production Accounting (as a distinct profession) and our ability to govern Members.

19. What is the downside to being Self-Regulated?

Any future changes to the regulation is a lengthy government process.

As well, Members who may not view positively about “standards of practice” may be unhappy with entry to practice and ongoing competency education requirements.

Any legal issue or complaint tribunal will incur a level of cost.

20. Why can't more details be determined before we start the application?

The government has a process that we must follow in an application for self-regulation and the details such as use of protected title, standards of practice, code of ethics and more are to be developed and voted on by membership at a later stage of the application.

21. What if I have more questions about Self-Regulation?

Please direct your questions to CAPPAs's CEO Sheila McFadyen at smcfadyen@cappa.org .