Dear members and students,

I trust you had an enjoyable holiday season and wish all of you and your families the best for a happy and healthy 2013.

The year 2012 was an exciting time for CIMA. The year began with the launch of the CGMA joint venture between CIMA and the AICPA on January 31, 2012. There were events in London and New York to commemorate the launch and the live webcast attracted a significant viewership from Canada. In Toronto we held a media event on February 1st to introduce the joint venture and the CGMA designation to the media, the accounting bodies in Canada and Senior executives in the Public and Private Sectors. The event was held at the residence of the UK Consul General, Jonathan Dart, and subsequently the Globe and Mail and the Bottomline magazine included articles on CGMA. The CGMA designation has been widely accepted by CPA’s in the USA and 37,000 CPA’s have become CGMA’s as at December 31, 2012. This joint venture will continue to have a significant impact on the accounting profession in North America.

A landmark development in Canada was the launch of the CIMA Canada annual conference on October 30, 2012. Over 300 delegates braved the aftermath of hurricane Sandy to attend the conference. The guest of honour at the conference was CIMA President Gulzari Babber FCMA, CGMA, and the keynote speaker, Jim Harris is a world renowned speaker on Sustainability. The keynote speech was followed by a panel discussion that included senior business executives from varied businesses including Pavi Binning FCMA, CGMA, the President of George Weston Limited that owns the Loblaws group, the largest food retailer in Canada. The conference raised the profile of CIMA among the business and finance community in Canada and the National Post covered the CIMA conference in print and on-line with two articles and live Twitter coverage.

CIMA also celebrated 40 years as a branch in Canada last June and we celebrated this milestone with a member event during the visit of the CIMA President Gulzari Babber FCMA, CGMA.

The visit of the CIMA President also coincided with the annual CIMA Mayor’s Trophy which has become a very successful media asset to CIMA. This event creates great awareness of the CIMA brand due to the significant publicity generated by the event and in 2012 we launched the CIMA Mayor’s School Cricket tournament. Fifty Toronto schools participated in the first ever CIMA school cricket tournament and as you would appreciate, this initiative will introduce CIMA to a large number of school children and their parents. In 2013, we plan to expand this tournament across the GTA and will be conducting introductory workshops in all participating schools where we will also have the opportunity to speak about CIMA.

As you may be aware, our mentoring program has played an essential role in helping members and students new to the country adapt to the employment market in Canada. In 2012, we bolstered this initiative through a partnership with TRIEC (Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council) and by strengthening our relationships with recruiting firms.

The CIMA Canada CPD and networking events in 2012 were well received by our members and students. Our regional chapters in Calgary, Vancouver and Ottawa are quite active with a number of events being held in each of these areas. In 2012 we also appointed a new Chapter board in Alberta and Steve Kerr, FCMA, CGMA, was appointed as the Chair of the Alberta Board. The Alberta board will also be organizing a few events in Edmonton in 2013. If you live in the GTA, Alberta, British Columbia or Ottawa, I hope you will make use of the member events organized in your area by attending these events in 2013. Your regional boards work tirelessly to organize these learning and networking opportunities and they would love to see you.

CIMA renewed its Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with CMA Canada at the end of 2012. A noteworthy change in the renewed agreement is that the CMA dropped the requirement for the one year of Canadian managerial work experience required by the previous MRA.

Our activities in Canada have been well supported by CIMA staff in the UK. Mahes Wickramasinghe and I have continued to update the CIMA Council and the CIMA policy committees of the “Members’ Services Committee” and the “Global Markets Committee” of activities and challenges in Canada. Each year the President’s visit to Canada is the first of the new mandate, coinciding with the CIMA Mayor’s Trophy. This year we were honoured with a second visit from the CIMA President related to the aforementioned annual conference.

The continuous improvement of our activities in Canada would not be possible without the dedication and the commitment of the CIMA Canada Board members, the Chapter representatives and Committee members. I am grateful to them for their hard work and the countless hours of voluntary time that they dedicate to CIMA.

I look forward to meeting you at CIMA events in 2013.

Amal Ratnayake, FCMA, CGMA
Chair, Board of Directors, CIMA Canada

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