

## A VERY PLEASANT CONVERSATION

I read with interest the two-page article entitled "The Leader's Guide to Difficult Conversations," by Merge Gupta-Sunderji, CGA, in the April/May 2009 issue of Statements.

I am a senior manager of compliance operations in the Oshawa revenue collections branch of the Ministry of Revenue, and we have been looking for exactly this type of information for our frontline managers. Could you provide us with 50 copies of "the leadership edition" for our branch managers?

**Ava Tomlinson, CGA  
Durham Chapter**

*Thank you, Ava. CGA Ontario is pleased to provide additional copies of Statements for distribution where readers see fit. By the way, Merge provides more timely advice in the article "Weathering the storm: strategies for job security," on page 14 of this issue.*

## A SPECIAL DUTY

Please provide me with a copy of the thesis, "Ethical Leadership in the Accounting Profession—A Special Duty," by David Kropla, CGA, as indicated in the April/May 2009 issue of Statements.

As a CGA who is studying for an MBA, I am hoping to cover ethics as part of my dissertation. I strongly believe that ethics is an area that CGAs need to promote in business, because in the accounting field, we are constantly facing issues that others don't see from the same point of view—because they have not been trained in the ethics of accounting.

**Moya Leighton, CGA  
Peel Chapter**

*Excellent point. Given the accounting scandals of recent years, we often speak of ethical leadership solely as it applies to the profession, and forget that CGAs have "a special duty" to inform and educate colleagues in other professions. David's complete thesis is available to readers by contacting editor@cga-ontario.org.*

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## Skills for Change New Pioneers Awards CGA Ontario celebrates 10 years of sponsoring the New Pioneers Graduate Award

On March 5, 2009, Skills for Change held its Annual New Pioneers Awards Gala in Toronto. The event acknowledges the adversity faced by newcomers to Canada and celebrates the achievements of recent immigrants through awards granted in six categories: the arts, community service, entrepreneurship, science and technology, job training, and youth.

Skills for Change is a Toronto-based, not-for-profit agency providing a variety of mentoring and sector-specific programs and services for newcomers to Canada. It created the New Pioneers Awards in 1993 as a vehicle "to positively and publicly recognize newcomers and their achievements."

### CGA Ontario Celebrates Sponsorship

Each year for the past 17 years, Skills for Change recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding individuals who have come to call Canada "home." As the GTA's landmark cultural community celebration, the awards are often referred to as the "Oscars of Diversity."

CGA Ontario has been a proud sponsor of the prestigious Skills for Change Graduate award since 1999. This special partnership with the Skills for Change team promotes the CGA designation and the CGA program of professional studies to newcomers—many of whom are internationally educated accounting or finance professionals—and exemplifies both the fairness of access to the CGA program and the diversity of our membership.

As in past years, CGAs took part in the event on both a corporate and personal level. Attending the event were a number of CGAs who have served on graduate award selection teams both past and present: Danica Jaklin, CGA; Kanchan Kaura, CGA; Mary Ann Lara, CGA; Peter Rummye, FCGA; Howard Shen, CGA; and Shirley Taylor, CGA.

Also attending the event were CGA Ontario's Bruce Richards and Carmen Jacques, CGA, vice-president and manager of business development respectively.

### Skills for Change Graduate

Occupational health and safety officer Pedro Vargas-Zamora came to Canada from Chile in 2006. "I was a newcomer on my own," he explains, "and had no close friends here. The beginning was very complicated, no references, no familiar places, no emotional support and of course a slow integration to the Canadian community."

"I was unable to find a job in my field (occupational health and safety) because I had not realized how important it is to have what Canadian employers call "Canadian experience."

Instead, Pedro recently completed the Engineering Your Future program at Skills for Change, and founded a multidisciplinary professional support group for newcomers. He credits the mentoring provided by Skills for Change for expanding his network, exploring the volunteer opportunities market, and pursuing the training he requires. CGA Ontario congratulates Pedro Vargas-Zamora and all the winners of the 17th Annual New Pioneers Awards.



Vargas-Zamora