



**Certified General
Accountant:
A Standard of Quality**

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“The accountant you choose may become your most valuable resource.”

For close to a century, Ontario’s certified general accountants (CGAs) have provided financial leadership and experience to all sectors of the economy. CGAs are committed to professionalism. CGAs are loyal to a code of ethical principles and rules of professional conduct. CGAs provide a standard of quality.

The Certified General Accountants of Ontario (CGA Ontario) knows that the accountant you choose may become your most valuable resource. That’s why we provide protection to the public through errors and omissions insurance, mediation and verification services, and independent examination of public practice firms.

A COMMITMENT TO PROFESSIONALISM

The mission of CGA Ontario is to ensure its members merit the confidence and trust of all who rely upon their professional knowledge, skills, judgment and integrity by regulating qualification, performance and discipline standards for certified general accountants, while advocating the use of their professional expertise in the public interest.

ALLEGIANCE TO A CODE OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Code of Ethical Principles and Rules of Professional Conduct is the cornerstone of CGA Ontario’s self-regulatory program. It provides the foundation upon which certified general accountants practise their profession, and ensures that CGAs maintain the highest ethical standards. The professionalism and high standard of conduct of all CGAs is further supported by a comprehensive disciplinary process.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS INSURANCE

CGAs in practice are required to carry errors and omissions insurance. This insurance provides CGAs with protection and their clients with financial restitution in the event of an error or omission.

FEE MEDIATION SERVICES

CGA Ontario operates a fee resolution service that aims to resolve fee disputes in an expeditious and inexpensive manner. Either party may apply to CGA Ontario to have a fee dispute resolved through the appointment of a mediator/arbitrator.

MANDATORY CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The standard of quality provided by CGAs is supported by CGA Ontario’s mandatory continuing professional development program. Mandatory professional development promotes lifelong expertise through ongoing learning, and ensures that the knowledge and competencies of CGAs are always up to date.

PRACTICE INSPECTION: AN INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF A FIRM’S QUALITY

In order to assure clients that CGAs are practising in firms that provide high quality service, participants undergo a practice inspection every three years. New firms are reviewed within the inaugural year of business.



Practice inspections are conducted by experienced senior accountants who possess significant experience in the field of accounting. A practice inspection is a rigorous and on-site inspection process that includes the inspection of a firm’s practice and financial statement files.

A firm that does not meet CGA Ontario’s standard is given the opportunity to improve its rating and is inspected again in fewer than three years. If a firm fails two consecutive practice inspections it is closely monitored until it meets the required standard. Failure to comply with the program results in disciplinary action.

VERIFYING A FIRM’S CREDENTIALS

Confirm that the accountant you choose has the expertise of a CGA and the protection provided by CGA Ontario. CGA Ontario can offer you assistance in engaging a CGA through our free online accountant referral service:

www.cga-ontario.org/applications/accountantreferral/default.aspx

Remember that the accountant you choose may become your most valuable resource. Choose a standard of quality. Choose a CGA.

For more information about the Certified General Accountants of Ontario and its resources, visit www.cga-ontario.org or call 1-800-242-9131.

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