



PROFILE:

2017 Distinguished Professional Service Award Recipient: Judie Parker, FCIS

How did you first become involved with ICSA Canada?

In 1983 I was invited by John Davies to join the Alberta Board. After some years on the Board I was then nominated to replace John as the Alberta Representative on the National Board.

How did your membership affect your career?

Membership in ICSA has provided network opportunities which have resulted in a number of job opportunities. My first job in Canada was with Montreal Trust in their Stock Transfer Department. The manager of the department was an Affiliate of ICSA and recognized my qualifications. I found this job within a week of arriving in Calgary. Through attending monthly members' meetings, I met the Assistant Secretary of a large public company who was looking for additional staff for their corporate secretarial department. This was my second job. Since then, most of my positions have been through networking with other ICSA members. I should also like to add that relationships with international members and the ICSA designation have been beneficial in dealing with international companies and their different corporate laws.

How did education and knowledge gained through ICSA most benefit daily responsibilities

Education and knowledge gained through ICSA have been invaluable in carrying out the daily responsibilities in my various positions. I have worked closely with the staff in the accounting and tax departments who have recognized and appreciated someone in corporate secretarial having knowledge in accounting and tax. At the time I sat my ICSA exams, taxation was one of the papers and the most difficult one in my estimation. The knowledge that I gained from sitting that exam has been extremely invaluable throughout my career.

What was the biggest challenge working in the field of Corporate Secretaryship and how did your ICSA membership help to overcome it?

There were many challenges over the years. Knowledge gained through the courses required by ICSA and the rigours of sitting exams towards a professional qualification provided me with the tools to deal with stressful situations and the knowledge to find the solutions to many of these challenges.

A particular memory from your membership with ICSA....

The visit to Calgary of the International board members which was organized by John Davies when he was the Canadian representative on the International board. On a subsequent occasion in Vancouver, it was very interesting to meet Alison Broadbent, who was then the International Director of Professional Education which provided insight into the examination structure. Alison had held that position for many years and had travelled to many of the countries where the ICSA professional designation is offered.

Advice for new members:

I would encourage new members to attend as many member and CPD events as possible and to become active in the actual running of the Branches and Chapters of ICSA Canada. We also live in a time of change, hence the need to keep up to date with the current fund of knowledge.