

## CAs loom large in the ROB 1000

Chartered Accountants play a leadership role in many of Canada's largest companies. Each year the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) reviews the positions of chairperson, CEO, president, CFO, COO and corporate secretary at companies in the Globe and Mail's Report on Business 1000 (ROB) magazine to determine how many top spots are held by CAs.

In 2008, 62.5 per cent of the ROB 1000 companies had at least one CA in these six executive position categories, comparable to 2007's 62.9 per cent and 61 per cent in 2006. Of all of the people holding one of these top six positions at a ROB 1000 company, 22.7 per cent are CAs, with some individuals holding multiple positions.

Of the top six positions, the CA designation is most valued for the CFO position (58.7 per cent). The percentage of CFOs in the ROB 1000 who are CAs has also risen over the past eight years with the trend suggesting that CAs are becoming more critical in this role. Companies who do have a CA as their CFO were rewarded with better performance, while companies with CA listed as their CFO outperformed on several key measures such as return on equity, return on capital and return on assets.

While the CFO position is the one most likely to be held by CAs, the ROB 1000 companies also list CAs as 11.1 per cent of chairpersons, 9.9 per cent of CEOs, 9.2 per cent of presidents, 15.3 per cent of corporate secretaries, and 7.5 per cent of COOs.

Acknowledgement: Information courtesy of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and the 2008 Globe and Mail's Report on Business 1000.

**Percentage of CFO Positions in ROB 1000  
Companies Held by CAs**

