CFLA Names its
David Powell Member of the Year 2017-2018

Hugh Swandel
Senior Managing Director, The Alta Group

MONTREAL, QUEBEC (September 27, 2018). At its 45th Annual conference CFLA Chairman Richard McAuliffe announced the “CFLA David Powell Member of the Year 2017-2018“:

This year in recognition his 22 years of service to CFLA and the asset-based finance and leasing industry, CFLA’s Board of Directors renamed the CFLA Member of Year Award, the David Powell Member of the Year Award.

This Award recognizes individuals, volunteers from corporate members, who work for the Association, and are committed to its goals. “These volunteers are wonderful examples of those who are pleased to give back to their industry,” said Richard McAuliffe, CFLA Chairman. “Their generous efforts are a significant contribution to their Association, to its members and to the industry as a whole.”

Most members look first and foremost to CFLA to advocate the views and support the interests of our industry with governments. This is inevitably a complex technical challenge. The starting point is always to ensure that CFLA has a deep and practical understanding of the issue and its impact on the industry and the broader economy. It is not enough to complain, we have to offer practical solutions. This is only possible with the help of over 150 individuals from CFLA members who volunteer their time and effort to ensure the success of CFLA and the asset-based finance and leasing industry.

The importance of volunteerism to CFLA’s success was recognized by the CFLA Chairman when announcing the David Powell Member of the Year, emphatically stating: “CFLA’s success in servicing its members and advocating for the industry is only possible through the valuable voluntary contributions made by our many members.”

Some go above and beyond in helping our industry.

“One member who time and time again steps up and stands out in his unwavering support of the asset-based finance and leasing industry is Hugh Swandel. Hugh does so with only one goal in mind; the betterment of the industry he has dedicated his life to and is so passionate about.”
In recognizing Hugh’s contribution to CFLA, its Chairman, Richard McAuliffe reviewed Hugh’s many achievements over the past year saying: “Hugh has been instrumental is ensuring the successful launch of CFLA’s Research Committee, the successful completion of the CFLA backed C.D. Howe Institute report – Tooling Up: Canada Needs More Robust Capital Investment and initiating and laying the foundation for the first ever CFLA Business Confidence Survey.” Hugh, “in connection with his partners in the Research Committee, has also begun the hard work of identifying the key data points, drafting critical research questions, and formulating the methodology required for the development of a benchmark survey to help CFLA and the industry discover which sectors are most profitable and stay on top of industry trends.”

However, Hugh’s contributions to the industry and CFLA go back much further than this past year. During the global credit crisis, Hugh prepared materials and provide insight into the impact of the credit crisis on Canadian independent finance companies. He presented to the advisory committee to the minister of finance and was later asked to provide commentary to the C.D. Howe Institute at policy development discussions with government and industry representatives. CFLA’s Chairman remarked; “Hugh is a past CFLA Member of the Year recipient, receiving the award in 2006 and again in 2010, as one of the volunteer instructors for the Canadian Lease On-Demand education program (CLEO).”

“Hugh, for all this, your enthusiasm for your industry and your support of your Association, we thank you.”

Past Honorees

2016-17 Industry Compensation Study Steering Committee
Lucy Elcome (RCAP Leasing)
Clara McLaughlin (De Lage Landen Financial Services Canada Inc.), and
Rick Yacknovets (Royal Bank Financial Group)

2015-16 Jennifer Babe (Miller Thomson LLP)

2014-15 Paynet, Inc. & William Phelan

2013-14 Moe Danis (Pacific & Western Bank of Canada)

2012-13 Paul Zalesky (AllWest Insurance Services)

2011-12 Angela Armstrong (Prime Capital Consulting and Forest Leasing)

2010-11 David Dalziel (Deloitte & Touche LLP)
Loraine McIntosh (Deloitte & Touche LLP), and
Rishi Malkani (Deloitte & Touche LLP)
2009-10  The volunteer instructors of Canadian Lease Education On-demand (CLEO)
Angela Armstrong (Prime Capital Consulting and Forest Leasing)
Kevin Bowman (Equirex Leasing Corporation)
Michael Burke (Blake Cassels and Graydon LLP)
Jason Cooper (PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP)
Murray Derraugh (The Alta Group)
Michel Lévesque (Group Credit Lease)
Stuart Sherman (Morrison Acceptance Corporation)
Judy Smiley
Hugh Swandel (The Alta Group)
Michael Stewart (KPMG LLP)
Steve Weisz (Blake Cassels and Graydon LLP), and
Robin Wilks (HKMB HUB International)

2008-09  Michael Collins (DealerTrack Canada, Inc.)

2007-08  The CFLA Education & Program Committee
Chair: Richard McAuliffe (Key Equipment Finance Canada Ltd.)
John Barraclough (Maxium Financial Services Inc.)
Gary Batchelor (Travelers Financial Corporation)
John Estey (Stonebridge Financial Corporation)
Douglas McKenzie (BAL Global Finance Canada Corporation), and
Alan Morgan (RBC Equipment Finance Group)

2006-07  Ford Motor Company of Canada Ltd. and Ford Credit Canada Ltd.

2005-06  Hugh Swandel (Swandel and Associates)

2004-05  Peter Freill (Securcor Group of Companies)

2003-04  Mark Robinson (DaimlerChrysler Services Canada Inc.)

2002-03  Diane Sekula (CIT Financial) and
Bob Westlake (GE Capital Canada)

2001-02  David Chaiton (Chaitons, LLP)
Tom Hopkirk (HKMB Capital Solutions), and
Raja Singh (Pitney Bowes Global Credit Services)

2000-01  Brian Stevens (MFP Financial Services)

1996-97  Serge Mâsse (Crédit-Bail Findeq)
1995-96  Tom Simmons (Commcorp Financial Services)
1994-95  Greg Korsos (Sako Leasing Inc.)
1993-94  Tom Hopkirk (Barclays Bank of Canada Leasing Division)

*Tom Hopkirk has been named Member of the Year twice: in 1993-94 and 2001-02.
** Hugh Swandel has been named Member of the Year twice: in 2005-2006 and 2009-2010.
*** Angela Armstrong has been named Member of the Year twice: in 2009-2010 and 2011-2012.

For more information

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