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The Professional Business Accountants' Society of British Columbia and Complete Accounting Solutions Inc. Celebrates the July 11th, 2016 BC Supreme Court Ruling on the BC CPA Act
Organization of Chartered Professional Accountants' of British Columbia v. Nordine

Vancouver, BC: The Professional Business Accountants' Society of British Columbia (PBABC) has successfully defended PBA members from petitions for injunction filed Nov 27th by the Organization of Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia (CPABC). The application to the BC Supreme Court sought to prevent the use of the respondents Professional Business Accountant – PBA designations. The petition relied on an expansive and monopolistic interpretation of the new *CPA Act* that was not consistent with the CA, CGA, CMA merger public consultation process nor the position of the Ministry of Advanced Education, which was responsible for introducing the new legislation.

The Honorable Mr. Justice Kelleher issued his Reasons for Judgment on July 11, 2016 and the petition was dismissed in full with costs to the respondents. In his reasoning, Justice Kelleher stated, “[48] *In the present case, the respondents were clearly operating within the law prior to the enactment of the CPA Act. The issue I must determine is the extent to which the new legislation has restricted the respondents’ right to continue to use previously permitted designations.*”

Justice Kelleher relied in part on the position of the Ministry of Advanced Education as follows:

...“The Chartered Professional Accountants Act does not attempt to take away the right of Registered Public Accountant’s Association of British Columbia (RPAABC) members to use their existing titles, to practice assurance services, or to issue opinions. It also does not interfere with RPAABC efforts to re-brand as the Professional Business Accountant’s (PBA) Society of British Columbia, or launch a PBA education program.”...

The PBABC protects the public by regulating PBA members through education, exam, entrance, ethics, experience, continuing professional education, errors and omissions insurance, and practice review requirements. In a competitive free market the public should have the right to choose what type of designated accountant they believe is the right fit for their career or business.

"We are pleased that the Court saw the merger legislation of the CA's, CGA's and CMA's the same way as the government and the PBABC. This will allow us to continue to develop our brand of professional accounting to the benefit of our clients, without further threats by the CPA's organization to limit our access to the public." says Solomon Nordine, President of the PBABC.

The PBABC will continue to defend its right to practise public accountancy for businesses across BC and the Yukon.