

# How To Choose an Accountant



Like any service provider, choosing an accountant should be done carefully and with your own needs in mind. Not only will you want to feel confident that the person you choose has the experience and skill set to be able to manage your unique situation, but you will definitely want to feel comfortable working with them. If you're a small business owner, your tax situation becomes even more complex, and you'll need to make sure your accountant is up to the challenge. We've put together a handful of questions to help you:

## 1. Tell me why I should choose you?

Your accountant should be able to help you year round, not just during tax season. If your accountant is truly working for you they are working closely with your financial advisor to make sure that tax deferral or minimization strategies are in place for your specific situation.

## 2. What are your qualifications?

Prior to 2014 there were three different accounting designations in Canada. Those have now been merged under the designation of CPA (Chartered Professional Accountant). Ask your accountant about her/his qualifications and professional development.

## 3. Do you work with other clients in similar situations to mine?

For example, if you're a pharmacist, you might find benefit in working with an accountant who works with other people in your same role.

## 4. Can you share testimonials from clients in my industry or a similar industry?

It might even be possible to meet with a current client to gain valuable insight into their style and commitment to their clients' success.

## 5. Explain to me the benefits of employing you?

You already know there are benefits to having professional advice when it comes to your finances. Let them tell you what makes them, in particular, a valuable member of your team and what you can expect to see as a result of engaging their services.

No matter who you choose to work with, there are a few questions you should ask them every year.

1. How can we make this tax season better than last tax season?
2. What can we do differently this year that will benefit me/my business?
3. What can you do to help me manage my cash flow?



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