



2019 PEAK Award Honouree
Walter Pela – Champion
presented by





The Association of Women in Finance is proud to honour Walter Pela with the 2019 PEAK Award in the category of Champion.

As Regional Managing Partner of KPMG in the Greater Vancouver Area (GVA), Walter leads BC's largest and oldest professional services firm, operating with 1,200 individuals in 12 offices across the Province. He also serves on KPMG's Clients & Markets Committee, overseeing client service and market development across Canada. Prior to his current role, Walter spent nine years serving as the Partner-in-Charge of Tax Services for KPMG in the GVA.

In his role as Regional Managing Partner, Walter leads conversations with clients, business leaders and organizations on business, social and economic issues, including in the area of innovation and business transformation. With more than 25 years of experience and as an active Tax Partner, he provides tax advice to a wide variety of clients, including public and private businesses, institutional investors and private equity groups. Walter has acted as the tax lead for many security offerings, mergers and acquisitions, and tax structured transactions. Throughout his impressive career, he has maintained an industry focus in real estate, advising developers, REITs, funds and syndications.

An exemplar of inclusive leadership, Walter is a vocal advocate for change and the advancement of women. He challenges the status quo and creates opportunities for female professionals to be equally represented in leadership positions. Walter continuously devotes his time and resources to mentoring women and has played a critical role in advancing the careers of many women in finance, including several who have since become Partners at KPMG. Walter regularly advises female Partners and Senior Managers at KPMG to "un-balance" at the right times, or to place extra focus during critical moments on either their careers or personal lives, so that they can succeed in both realms.

In 2016, Walter was recognized as a Fellow of the Chartered Professional Accountants (FCPA) and has previously served as a Governor of the Canadian Tax Foundation and as Chair of the Finance Committee for UNICEF Canada. Over the past decade Walter has also contributed to many other organizations, including currently volunteering on the Boards and Executive Committees of the Business Council of British Columbia and of the Pacific Autism Foundation Network.

Please join us to celebrate Walter's achievements at the PEAK Awards Gala on May 15, 2019.

Congratulations, Walter!