

NEWS UPDATE

December 6, 2011

Lipton takes home the trophy as *Canada's Greenest*

On Thursday November 17, 2011, Lipton Chartered Accountants was recognized as Canada's Greenest IT Department. This award was given in recognition of Lipton's continued efforts to maintain a paperless office in an industry that is typically reliant on paper documents.

For the past three years, Lipton Chartered Accountants, a Toronto based mid-sized accounting firm has made a conscience decision to minimize the amount of paper created or handled by their firm. The accounting industry typically deals with an endless stream of paper documents, from tax slips, receipts, and client records, the amount of paper generated can become staggering.

Lipton's IT department created several initiatives to minimize this problem. Client portals, allow Lipton's clients to electronically scan all of their slips and records and send digital copies directly to their accountant. Tax returns are no longer delivered in paper form to the clients, but rather provided on disk for future reference. According to Lipton's IT Manager, Bryan Walderman, "these initiatives not only minimize the amount of paper flowing into the office, but also serve to enhance Lipton's relationships with our clients".

Internally, documents are being saved digitally and stored in a digital repository, saving Lipton thousands in offsite storage costs, and freeing up valuable on-site real estate. What used to be several large areas of the office dedicated to file storage is now down to one simple file room. Staff are equipped with portable scanners when visiting clients at their location, allowing Lipton's accountants the ability to leave their clients without taking a single paper document. These paperless initiatives do not only help the environment, but also serve to increase Lipton's efficiency, being able to trim down the time spent on administration functions.

"Most professional services firms view Information Technology as a cost-center", says Paul Roberts, Partner, "Lipton sees technology as tool, used to enhance productivity, and strengthen our ability to serve our clients". "If we can enhance our business and help the environment at the same time, it truly becomes a win-win situation".

The award was part of *Infotech's Quest for the Smartest IT* initiative. This was the second year of the event that accepts nominations from all across Canada. Lipton Chartered Accountants was chosen as the winning entry among five other finalists from different provinces across Canada. Sponsored by The Globe and Mail, Samsung, IBM and a variety of other Canadian technology companies, the event was attended by over 150 people at the Capitol Theatre in Toronto.

For more information about the competition, go to www.smartest-it.com/awards



Lipton Partner Paul Roberts (left) and IT Manager Bryan Walderman (right) accept the trophy as *Canada's Greenest*