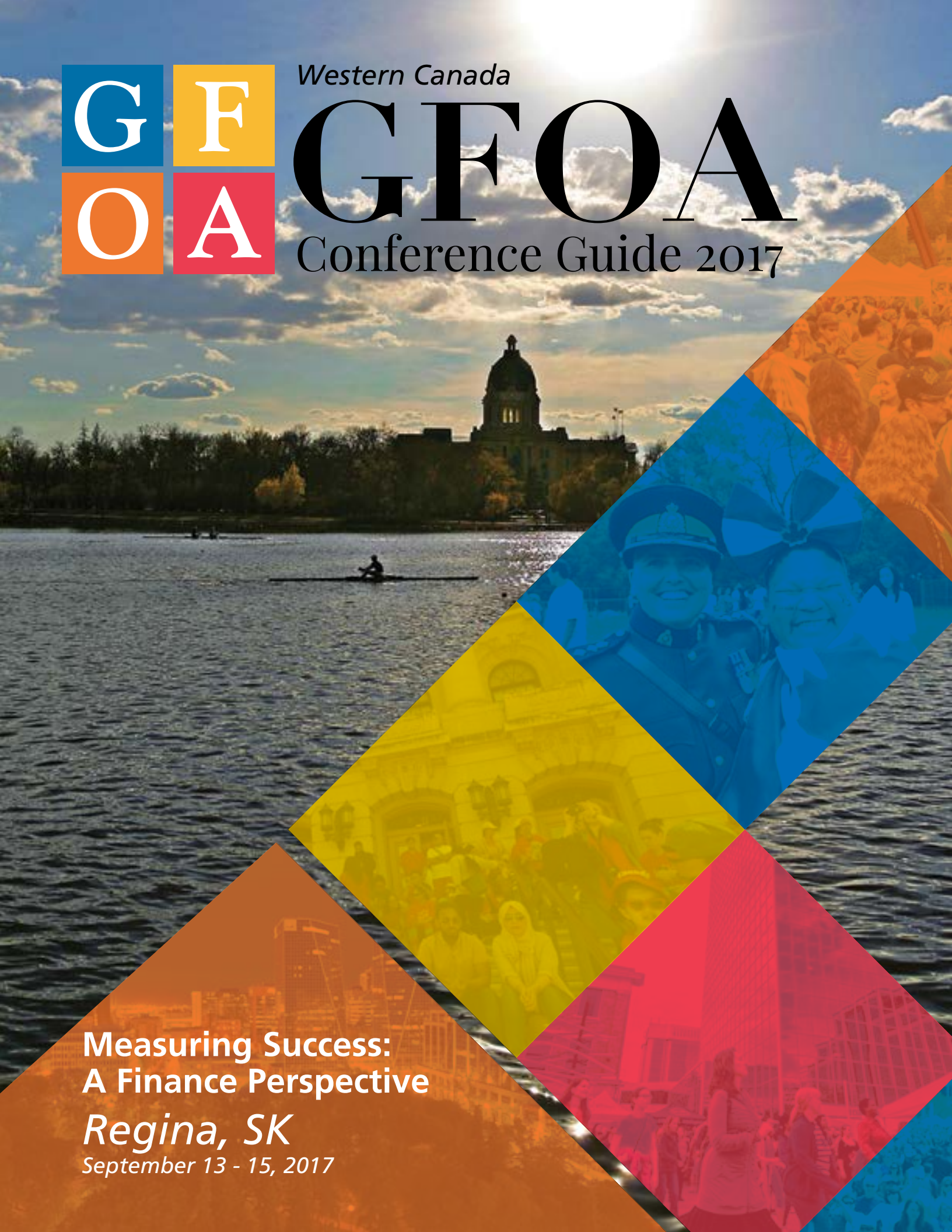




Western Canada

GFOA

Conference Guide 2017



**Measuring Success:
A Finance Perspective**

Regina, SK

September 13 - 15, 2017



Western Canada

GFOA At a Glance

Conference Guide 2017

Wednesday, Sep 13th		Thursday, Sep 14th		Friday, Sep 15th	
6:00	Morning Wellness	Morning Wellness			
7:30	Registration/Breakfast	Registration/Breakfast		Breakfast	
	Regency Ballroom	Regency Ballroom	Saskatchewan Suite	Regency Ballroom	Regency Ballroom
8:30	Keynote Speaker - Craig Reynolds Keynote Speaker - Ed Harrington	Keynote Speaker - Karina LeBlanc		The Great Debate	
	Victoria / Wascana	Victoria / Wascana		AGM	
10:00	Networking Break	Networking Break		Networking Break	
10:30	Optimize Decision Making for Capital Program Planning	The Trump Effect	Succession Planning	Canadian Economic Update Beata Caranci	
11:10	Travel time between sessions	Travel time between sessions	Asset Retirement Obligations	Keynote Speaker Police Chief Evan Bray	
11:15	Why Asset Management Plans Sit on the Shelf	Integrated Reporting for Performance Measures		11:30	
12:00	Lunch	Lunch		Door Prizes & Closing	
1:30	PSAB Annual Update Michael Puskaric	Dr Jim McDavid, University of Victoria Local Government Performance Measurement			
2:30	Networking Break	Networking Break			
3:00	Fiscal Sustainability & Long Term Planning	Municipal Benchmarking	Budget Officer Forum	Investment Manager Forum	
3:40	Travel time between sessions	What's next for Performance measurement			
3:45	Budgeting Techniques				
4:30	Free Time	Social Event			



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President's Message 2017



On behalf of the Western Canadian Government Finance Officers Board of Directors, I am both pleased and honoured to welcome you to Regina for our 2017 annual conference. Whether you are a delegate, guest, sponsor, exhibitor or a presenter; we are thrilled to have you with us.

This year's theme is "Measuring Success: A Finance Perspective." Come and be inspired by the success of others, gain valuable information to enhance your own success and learn about performance measures among other topics. In addition to the speakers and sessions, there will be lots of opportunities to network with your peers and learn from each other. Another great learning opportunity is our trade show where

our exhibitors will be happy to discuss what their services and products can do for your organization.

No conference would be complete without some social activities and our local committee has done an amazing job of planning this for you. Join us at the welcome reception at the Historic RCMP Museum, play the "measurement game" and you won't want to miss our Thursday night social in the beautiful Hotel Sask. No need to dress up - just register your team and come dressed to have fun with local radio personalities Chad and Ballsy.

I would like to personally invite everyone to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday, September 15th at 9:30am where you can participate as a voting member in our growing organization.

The board as well as our local committee look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and would like to thank you in advance for making this another successful conference.

Lorrie Schmalenberg

President of Western Canada GFOA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorrie Schmalenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor's Message 2017



On behalf of my colleagues on City Council and the citizens of Regina, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all in attendance at the Government Finance Officers Association Western Canada 2017 Conference being held from September 13-15, 2017.

The theme of this year's conference "Measuring Success: A Finance Perspective" is sure to be very thought-provoking and informative. In addition to providing attendees an exchange of knowledge, the conference also provides valuable professional development sessions and an opportunity to network with peers.

Thank you to all of the organizers and volunteers for their hard work, boundless

energy and passion for this conference. The success of the conference would not be possible without the dedication and efforts of all involved.

While you will undoubtedly be kept busy during the conference, please take some time to experience all that Regina has to offer, including the RCMP Heritage Centre, the Saskatchewan Science Centre, the Kramer IMAX Theatre, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. We also have many unique shops and fine restaurants, where you are sure to discover the warm and friendly nature of our city. I have no doubt that your experiences here will inspire you to return again and again.

Best wishes for a successful conference.

Michael Fougere

Mayor

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "M. Fougere", with a long, sweeping underline.

General Information

Conference Registration

Registration will be in the conference centre lobby of the Hotel Saskatchewan:

- Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
(at RCMP Museum after 7:00 p.m.)
- Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Name Tags

Name tags must be worn at all times to gain admission to conference sessions, meal breaks, the Welcome Reception and the Thursday evening banquet.

Transferable Registration

Conference registration can be transferred to another member of your organization. The first person from your organization to register will receive a name tag pouch. To transfer registration to an alternate delegate, simply return to the registration desk and turn in your pouch. Please keep your nametag if you plan to return at another time. Please note only one person can attend at a time per registration.

Conference Facilities

All conference events will be held at the Hotel Saskatchewan except for the Tuesday evening reception which will be held at the RCMP Museum.

Trade Show

The Trade Show is located in the Blue Lounge / Library rooms. Hours are 9:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, and from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday.

Tuesday Evening: Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception will be held in the RCMP Museum (5907 Dewdney Avenue) starting at 7 pm. Buses will start leaving at 6:45 pm. A drink ticket for the reception will be provided in your name tag pouches. Please note that the drink ticket can only be used at the Welcome Reception.

Thursday Evening: Dinner and Games

GFOA Western Canada invites delegates and friends to our annual banquet. A no-host bar will open at 6:00 pm in the conference centre lobby and the doors to the Hotel Saskatchewan Regency Ballroom will open at 7:00 pm where dinner will be served.

The entertainment will be a game show with local radio personalities, Chad and Ballsy, as your game show hosts calling on registered teams to come on down 'to **FEUD**'. The Game Show fun begins as soon as the doors open. Don't be in **JEOPARDY** of missing out on some great prizes and cases of fun.

Register your team prior to Thursday night at the registration desk to make sure you will be 'in it to win it!' If you don't have a team, put your name on the signup sheet and we'll **DEAL** you a team. Let the games begin!

Additional tickets for partners and friends can be purchased on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning at the registration desk.

Networking Breaks

Networking breaks will be held in the Trade Show area (10 -10:30 a.m. and 2:30 - 3 p.m.) on Wednesday and Thursday and in the conference centre lobby at 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

Meals

Breakfasts and lunches will be buffet style and served in the Regency Ballroom.

Delegates with Dietary Restrictions

If you have identified yourself as having a special dietary requirement, it is your responsibility to identify yourself to the service staff at the beginning of a meal. Depending on your specific requirements, an alternative will be arranged for you.

Partners Meal Program

Tickets are available at the registration desk if you did not order and pay at the time of registration.

- Welcome Reception, Breakfasts, and Thursday Night Event tickets: \$150
- Extra Reception Tickets: \$40
- Extra Banquet Tickets: \$90

Prize Draws

Conference delegates can obtain a Passport for use in the Trade Show. Each exhibitor booth has a stamp that they will place on your passport when you stop to view their display. When you collect 16 stamps in your passport, you may enter it into the prize draws. A minimum \$5 donation to the Regina Food Bank is required in order to participate in the draws.

Prize draws will be conducted on Thursday evening and Friday morning at the conference. You must be present in order to collect the prize.

Early Morning Wellness

Walk or run starting from the hotel on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Join other delegates and use maps provided by City of Regina staff. If you will be joining us, please meet in the Hotel lobby at 6:00 a.m.

Social Media

We will be promoting “Western Canada GFOA Regina Conference - Let’s Get Social” where you can share your conference thoughts and pictures on twitter using #GFOAYQR. We’d like to hear from you!

Pre-conference Sessions

September 12th 2017

8:30am to 4:30pm

Conference level of the Hotel Saskatchewan

Session #1 is offered by GFOA British Columbia

Business Case Analysis

This seminar will provide participants with the tools to prepare and present effective business cases that will optimize the use of organizational resources. An interactive workshop will guide participants through a discussion and understanding of important concepts, including Business cases must be linked to the strategic plan and operating objectives, must report measurable results and must be Complete, Concise, Consistent, not Contrived and use Common sense.

Instructor:

Graham Fane

holds an MBA, CMA, FCMA, CPA designations and is Principal of "Total Impact™ Management", a consulting service that has been in operation since 1989 offering consulting services in Business Case Preparation, Strategic Planning and Performance Management.

Session #2 is offered by MFOA Ontario

Asset Management - Hear the Latest Best Practices and What It Means for Your Municipality! Asset Management Planning (AMP) is very topical and is a critical part of municipal long-term planning and financial sustainability. This session will bring you up to speed on the latest information related to Standards for Asset Management, a summary of global AMP best practices and an overview of the various projects and practical tools that have been or are being developed. Registrants will have the opportunity to score their own municipality's AMP in an interactive session.

Instructors:

Donna Herridge

is a CPA CA and has 20 plus years of municipal finance experience with the City of Mississauga ON. Donna is a former President and Board member of MFOA and currently sits on GFOA's Committee on Canadian Issues.

Dan Wilson

is Managing Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer at the Township of Centre Wellington ON and has extensive experience in the areas of municipal finance and municipal auditing with seven years of industry practice with municipal governments and public accounting/auditing firms.

Session #3 is offered by GFOA Saskatchewan

For all Saskatchewan finance officers - take this opportunity to network with your colleagues and share topics of interest at this year's Saskatchewan Annual Meeting.

Conference Program: Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 13th, 2017

6:00 am

Morning Wellness

Meet in the Hotel lobby

7:30 am

Registration

Conference Centre lobby of the Hotel Saskatchewan

Breakfast

In the Regency Ballroom

8:30 - 10:00 am

Plenary Session

Conference Opening Remarks

Regency Ballroom

Traditional Blessing

The City of Regina Mayor Michael Fougere and Western Canada GFOA President Lorrie Schmalenberg will give opening remarks and welcome the delegates to the City of Regina.

Financial Strategy in Sports

Room: Regency Ballroom

Keynote Speaker:



Craig Reynolds

President & CEO,

Saskatchewan Roughriders

Here is a CPA who was successful as the CFO of the most commercially successful football team in Canada. Craig Reynolds didn't limit himself to just reporting on the finances (keeping score) he looked for ways of making the organization successful (scoring touchdowns) and was rewarded by being trusted to run the organization as CEO (awarded the MVP).

Craig will share his experience, learnings and insights with us about how measuring results from a finance perspective can truly impact on the success of an organization whether it is in local government, in business or in the sporting industry.

The Future of the Finance Officer

Room: Regency Ballroom

Keynote Speaker:



Ed Harrington

Treasurer, Greenpeace International

Ed served as Controller for the City and County of San Francisco for 17 years. He was also the General Manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. During that time, he also volunteered with GFOA of US and Canada, serving as President in 2004.

Upon retirement he became an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco. He also is an

advisor on accounting topics to Earth Economics and Water Now—two non-profits working on natural resource sustainability issues and is a board member and Treasurer of both Greenpeace International and SPUR, a Bay Area urban policy think-tank and civic group.

During this session, Ed will discuss his work and show us that finance can be used to make a difference in many areas.

10:00 - 10:30 am

Networking Break

Trade Show area

10:30 - 11:15 am

Concurrent Sessions

Infrastructure Asset Management: Optimize decision making for capital program planning and delivery

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speaker:

Ross Homeniuk

KPMG LLP

Public sector organizations including Cities and Municipalities are dealing with aging infrastructure, growing demands for service and changing operating conditions. These organizations are challenged to “do more with less”, and continually demonstrate results to the public.

During this session, the speaker will present a leading practice approach for asset management that establishes line of sight over decision-making

SEPTEMBER 13th, 2017

for capital programs that helps municipalities get the most out of their investment dollars.

Tenders and RFP's – do it right – avoid a lawsuit!

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

Speaker:

Lindsay A. Parcels

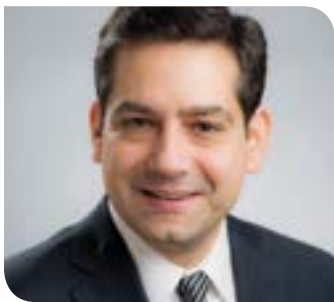
Lidstone & Company

In the process of procurement, Finance Officers should be aware of rules and practices established by the courts, legislatures and trade agreements to ensure transparency and fairness in the procurement process. If a Finance Officer does not pay attention to these rules and practices, a lawsuit may result.

This session will provide an overview of recent developments in procurement law which Finance Officers should be aware of and provide an interactive discussion on the municipal procurement process.

PSAB for New Finance Officers

Room: Victoria / Wascana Rooms



Speaker:

Michael Puskaric

Public Sector Accounting Board

If you are new to or are wondering why PSAB is different from private sector

standards, you need to come to this session.

The speaker will discuss the basics of public sector accounting to finance officers who are new to local government and will highlight the major differences, deal with those things that are unique to governments, and explain why PSAB has done what it has.

11:15 - 12 noon

Concurrent Sessions

Keeping Financial Presentations Fresh

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speaker:

Bill Cox

BDO Canada LLP

We've all been there. Council says they want more information about budgets, and variances, and capital projects and numbers in general. But 90 seconds into your discussion of numbers with them their eyes start to glaze over. "Can't we talk about outcomes instead of numbers" they may say.

It is difficult to find the right balance between detail and understandability when presenting financial information to non-accountants.

This session will investigate tips and techniques for presenting financial information, keeping it engaging, and helping the non-accountants understand what the numbers are saying.

The Implementation Challenge: Why Asset

Management Plans Sit on the Shelf

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

Speakers:

Jody Rechenmacher
& Brittney Dawney

Urban Systems

As awareness grows of the importance of asset management in sustainable service delivery, many local governments have or are in the process of developing AMP's, strategies, and policies. However, most often struggle to implement them, and many strategic documents end up sitting on the shelf. Years later, they are revisited, a gap analysis is conducted, new recommendations are made, and the implementation challenge continues. The question is: Why?

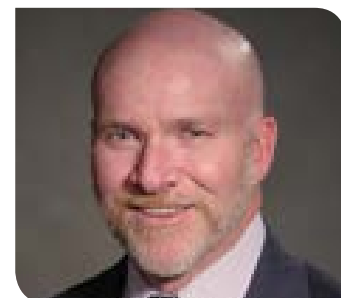
In this fun and engaging session, we will shine the light on the "people" side of asset management, and share our insights into how to keep your asset management plan off the shelf.

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch / Networking

Buffet lunch to be served in the Regency Ballroom

Lunch time speaker



Speaker:

Steven Gibson

*President-Elect, Government
Finance Officers Association
of US & Canada*

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

The Latest in Public Sector Accounting Standards – PSAB Annual Update

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speakers:

Michael Puskaric
& Dave Warren

Public Sector Accounting Board

Michael and Dave bring to the Public Sector a broad base of experience based on working in public, private and not-for-profit sector organizations in adopting the PSAB standards.

They will provide our annual PSAB update which has become one of the mainstays of our conference and they will discuss issues that we should be fully aware of in local government.

Best Practices for Communicating Financial Information

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

Speaker:

Jamie Black,

F.H. Black & Company

Annual Reports and Budget Books are large, complex documents. They attempt to communicate a lot of information to the reader either about the past or outlines of plans for the future. This information is of critical importance if council and senior management are to

make the right decisions.

This presentation will provide examples of what can go wrong when data isn't communicated well. It will outline some of the best practices designed to ensure that your financial reports provide as much valuable information in as useful a format as possible.

2:30 - 3:00 pm

Networking Break

Trade Show area

3:00 - 3:45 pm

Concurrent Sessions

PSAB Annual Update (cont.)

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speakers:

Michael Puskaric
& Dave Warren

Public Sector Accounting Board

Fiscal sustainability & long-term financial planning: The first step is to ignore the software

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

Speaker:

Matthew Hartney

Corvée Professional Accounting Corp.

Think that an investment in software is your cure to long-term fiscal sustainability? Think again.

Join us in a discussion on how the District of West Vancouver developed and documented its first ever 20-year fiscal sustainability review. Learn the

practical approach taken by the project team to help the Finance Department convince Council and the community to consider a practical solution: a new capital asset levy.

Come away with a real example of how to effectively plan and implement your long-term approach to fiscal sustainability. Gain a new understanding of how documenting and presenting your financial data supports long-term financial planning -- A key first step of fiscal sustainability.

GFOA Without Borders – Volunteering Your Skills!

Room: Victoria / Wascana Room

Speaker:

Devin Woods

Canadian Executive Services Organization

Financial management and governance is a critical element in building sustainable economic infrastructures.

From strengthening entrepreneurial capacity to manage fiscal responsibilities, to creating stable environments where the private sector can thrive, there is a growing demand from Indigenous communities across Canada to access financial management and governance expertise through mentorship.

Come to this session to hear about CESO's work with Indigenous communities, the power of volunteerism and mentorship and how to become a CESO Volunteer Advisor.

SEPTEMBER 13th, 2017

3:45 – 4:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

PSAB Annual Update – continued

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speakers:

Michael Puskaric
& Dave Warren

Public Sector Accounting Board

Budgeting Techniques – a practical approach for smaller municipalities

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

Speaker:

Janice Aver

Equinox Consulting

In an environment of increased transparency and accountability, Finance Officers need tools to change the way their municipalities have traditionally looked at budgeting.

This session will discuss how you can help shape the budget process to demonstrate value for money and achievement of stated corporate goals to tax payers and all stakeholders.

Discussion will center around service based and priority driven budget techniques, as well as current best practices in budgeting for smaller municipalities.

4:30 pm
Free Time

SEPTEMBER 14th, 2017

6:00 am

Morning Wellness

Meet in the Hotel lobby

7:30 am

Registration

Conference Centre lobby

Breakfast

Room: Regency Ballroom

8:30 - 10:00 am

Plenary Session

Live Life Purposefully

Room: Regency Ballroom

Keynote Speaker:



Karina LeBlanc

UNICEF Canada Ambassador

Karina played soccer for Canada for nearly 18 years culminating in a Bronze Medal at the London Olympics in 2012. Soccer has been her platform to realizing her greater purpose in life starting from her humble beginnings on Dominica.

Now Karina is a proud UNICEF Canada Ambassador – ready to inspire young girls to live their own dreams. As she says, “Soccer is more than just a game; it is more than just a sport. Soccer can change children’s lives; can save children’s lives.” During this session,

the speaker will discuss her role with UNICEF and will challenge us about our purpose in life.

10:00 - 10:30 am

Networking Break

Trade Show area

10:30 – 11:15 am

Concurrent Sessions

The Trump Effect

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speaker:

Bob Thompson

Thompson Investment Partners of Raymond James Ltd.

Since the conference in Kelowna, the market has begun softening in the West, but with the surprise election of Donald Trump, there is suddenly more uncertainty added to the mix. He signals protectionist policies, greater deficits, tax cuts and massive infrastructure spending.

Bob will review and discuss this dynamic and other factors and how they may affect investment and borrowing decisions for municipalities at our conference.

Succession Planning – Preparing your Organization for an Unpredictable Future!

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

Speakers:

John Van Horne
& Mary Winchell

City of Nanaimo BC

In this session, the pros and cons of

having a formal succession planning program will be discussed.

Reflecting on organizational experiences and HR best practices, the speakers will share their learnings for making HR strategies practical and relevant for resource-strained organizations that are constantly changing and often unpredictable.

11:15 am - 12 noon

Concurrent Sessions

Integrated Reporting for Performance Measures

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speaker:

Erin Stephen

PwC

Building and maintaining trust has never been more important and more challenging. How local government operates and what drives success is being transformed, expectations are changing and this is having an impact on what information management needs in order to manage internally and communicate externally.

This session will provide insights into integrated reporting for performance measurement and monitoring to assess the impact of your service delivery activities. Our discussion will help financial officers understand their role in moving from theoretical concepts to practical implementation.

Asset Retirement Obligations

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

Speaker:

Matthew Colley

Deloitte LLP

What would we do for planning and decommissioning assets at the end of their life?

The Public Sector Accounting Board is proposing to issue PS 3280 - Asset Retirement Obligations. This new standard is intended to address the reporting related to the retirement of tangible capital assets. The goal is to establish uniform criteria for public sector entities to use in the recognition and measurement of ARO's, including obligations that may not have been previously reported on the face of the financial statements.

Come and find out what this standard will mean to you and learn about ARO's. This session will also help attendees think about approaches to adopting this standard.

12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Lunch / Networking

Buffet lunch to be served in the Regency Ballroom.

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Plenary Session

Local Government Performance Measurement – Making Performance Management Make a Difference

Room: Regency Ballroom

Keynote Speaker:



Dr. Jim McDavid

University of Victoria

As one of Canada's leading public administration scholars in the fields of program evaluation, performance measurement and performance management, Dr. Jim McDavid from the School of Public Administration, University of Victoria will come and share his views on performance measurement with a focus on local governments.

This session will discuss building and using performance measurement systems in Canadian municipalities and factors that affect how performance information is used in decision making. His research emphasizes the importance of trust in sustaining effective performance measurement and performance management systems.

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Networking Break

Trade Show area

3:00 – 3:45 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Municipal Benchmarking: A perspective from MBN

Canada and the City of Regina, SK

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speaker

Dawn Martin

City of Regina and a member of the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada

The Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (MBN Canada) was originally founded in Ontario by a number of municipalities who wanted to share and improve their work in measuring municipal performance. In recent years, other cities in Canada have joined the network.

This presentation will provide insight into the innovative approach to benchmarking of MBN Canada -- including its peer and measure review process. The speaker will also provide background on the City of Regina's participation and how MBN Canada benchmarking contributes to the City's overall strategic agenda.

Budget Officer Forum

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

Coordinator:

Janice Aver

Equinox Consulting

This forum is an opportunity for Budget Officers to discuss common issues of interest.

Investment Manager Forum

Room: Victoria / Wascana Rooms

Coordinator:

Katherine MacDonald

City of Yellowknife, NT

This forum is an opportunity for

Investment Managers to explore issues impacting on investment portfolios.

3:45 – 4:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

What we learned and What's next for Performance Management?

Room: Regency Ballroom

Speakers:

Hash Qureshi
& Chris Stephan

MNP

With different perspectives shared by speakers during the conference, this session will review and summarize the key aspects of performance measurement and management. Concepts will be discussed to get us to think differently about measuring success.

The speakers will also introduce the emerging concepts of doing performance management in a dynamic environment while using your enterprise system and integrating performance management with risk management to produce a very effective and powerful result.

Budget Officer Forum (continued)

Room: Saskatchewan Suite

This forum is an opportunity for Budget Officers to discuss common issues of interest.

Investment Manager Forum (continued)

Room: Victoria / Wascana Rooms

This forum is an opportunity for Investment Managers to explore issues impacting on investment portfolios.

4:30 pm

Free Time until Social Event

6:00 pm

The Annual Banquet will be held in the Regency Ballroom. A no-host bar will be available at 6 pm in the conference lobby and the Ballroom doors will open at 7 pm.

The GAME SHOW NIGHT will begin with local radio personalities, Chad and Ballsy, as your game show hosts, calling on registered teams to have fun. Door prizes and music will be provided throughout the evening.

SEPTEMBER 15th, 2017

7:30 am

Registration

Outside Regency Ballroom

Breakfast

Inside Regency Ballroom

8:30 - 9:30 am

Plenary Session

Room: Regency Ballroom

The Great Debate – Do Performance Measures help you become successful?

Moderator:

Rick Wojtkiw

Sturgeon County, AB

Panelists:

Ed Harrington

Greenpeace International

Ed Kaemingh

Sturgeon County, AB

Karen Sinclair

Township of Langley, BC

This is your chance to hear a lively discussion with differing perspectives that will be sure to stimulate our future conversations!

9:30 - 10:00 am

Plenary Session – Annual General Meeting

Room: Regency Ballroom

Chairperson:

Lorrie Schmalenberg

President, Western Canada GFOA

10:00 – 10:30am

Networking Break

Regency Ballroom Foyer

10:30 - 11:30 am

Plenary Session – Canadian Economic Update

Room: Regency Ballroom

Keynote Speaker:



Beata Caranci

Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, TD Bank Group

Change is happening quickly and the impacts on our economy can be devastating if not confusing. With NAFTA negotiations underway, protectionist policies being implemented and environmental changes occurring more frequently, our country along with others are feeling the impacts of our changing world.

For more than 17 years, Beata has conducted analysis on global economies and financial markets. As the Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for TD Bank Group, she will discuss these changes and help us understand what lies ahead for our Canadian Economy.

11:30 am - 12:00pm

Plenary Session – Leadership in Municipalities

Room: Regency Ballroom

Keynote Speaker:



Evan Bray

Chief of Police, City of Regina, SK

Our Closing speaker will focus on Leadership of an organization and the essential tools to ensure success.

Through this motivational discussion, Evan will focus on “Who are a Leader’s “stakeholders” and how does a Leader keep them informed at all times.” Achieving success through Strategic Planning only happens when the entire team and associated stakeholders understand and believe in the common goal.

He will highlight that Leadership is a key factor in any organization but it is extremely important within a municipality at all levels in order to serve our citizens.

12:00 noon

Closing Remarks and Prize Draw

Speaker Biographies

Janice Aver

Janice is Principle of Equinox Consulting. She is a CPA, CMA and is a finance professional with over 25 years' experience in Local Government that includes Financial Planning and Accounting, Utility Rate Setting and Cash Flow and Reserve Management. Her current experience is in teaching, training and facilitating programs for Finance professionals in British Columbia.

Jamie Black

Jamie is President of F.H. Black & Company Incorporated, the sole certified implementer of CaseWare solutions in Canadian governments. He provides consulting and training services to municipalities and Government Business Enterprise clients throughout Canada and the U.S.

With nearly 20 years' experience working with governmental clients, he has encountered and developed solutions for nearly every scenario imaginable.

Evan Bray

Evan has 21 years' experience with the Regina Police Service, having worked predominantly as a front line uniformed police officer in Regina's Central and North Districts. He was a Drill Instructor at the Saskatchewan Police College for many years as well as a team member and Leader on both the Crowd Control and the Crisis Negotiator Teams.

Evan was involved for many years with the Regina Police Association, the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers and sat on the Canadian Police Association Board of Directors. He has been involved in numerous charities through the years including Cops for Cancer and recently worked with the Regina Sexual Assault Centre to eradicate sexual violence and abuse in Saskatchewan. His wife Jodie is a school teacher in Regina, his son Cy is a police officer with the Saskatoon Police Service and his daughter Ella recently graduated High School with plans to become a paramedic.

Beata Caranci

For more than 17 years, Beata has conducted analysis on

global economies and financial markets. As the Senior Vice President and Chief Economist for TD Bank Group, she leads a dynamic team of 15 economists who deliver on both the stress testing requirements of TD Bank and forecasts for the Canadian, U.S., and global economies.

Beata travels across North America speaking with TD clients about economic and financial trends and is also frequently asked to provide her perspective on breaking macroeconomic and financial issues for major media outlets, including CBC, BNN, Associated Press, The Wall Street Journal and CNN.

With a personal interest in women's issues, Beata has written several reports on the challenges and opportunities faced by women in the workplace. Her research report, "Get on Board Corporate Canada," helped influence the Ontario Securities Commission's rule amendments on disclosure of women on boards and in senior management. Beata holds a Master's Degree in Business Economics.

Matthew Colley

Matt is a Senior Manager in the Audit Advisory Practice for Deloitte in Toronto, which focuses on Accounting Advisory, Transaction Consultation, Finance Transformation, and Actuarial Services.

Matt joined Deloitte in 2004 and spent the majority of his initial years performing attest services for public sector organizations. From 2012 to 2014, he was seconded to Deloitte's National Office to assist audit practitioners with complex accounting issues and prepare their clients for new accounting standards that were being developed under IFRS, ASPE, Accounting Standards for Not for Profit Organizations and Public Sector Accounting Standards, including standards for Government Not-for-Profits.

Matt currently advises Public Sector and Private Sector organizations on complex accounting matters, as well as systems and process improvements.

Bill Cox

Bill is a FCPA and FCA. Bill is BDO Canada LLP's Western Canada lead for the Public Sector. He is based in Vancouver but works throughout Western Canada including the Yukon.

Bill has been serving local government for over 30 years and provides audit services to more than 20 local governments. He also works with Provincial crown corporations and agencies. He is a member of the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants Canada and a long-serving member of the Government Organizations Accounting and Auditing Forum of the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia.

Bill has presented at dozens of previous GFOA conferences and seminars as well as CPA and other PD sessions. When asked why he spends so much time at this, he answered “it beats doing real work”. In his spare time, Bill enjoys water-skiing in the summer and snow skiing in the winter.

Brittney Dawney

Brittney is a Consultant with Urban Systems Ltd. and works with local governments and First Nations across Western Canada to continuously improve how they work together, make decisions, and deliver services to their communities. Her experience includes asset management maturity assessments; integrated service delivery planning; multi-criteria decision analysis; strategic communications; and small- and large-group facilitation.

Brittney leverages her engineering and executive coaching experience to bring together diverse people and perspectives, foster commitment for a common way forward, and build capacity in people to support long-term implementation and improved outcomes.

Brittney is also a volunteer with the Urban Systems Foundation and is advising the development and implementation of a capacity-building program aimed at improving water governance and service delivery in rural Uganda.

Mayor Michael Fougere

Michael Fougere was elected as Mayor of Regina on October 24, 2012 after serving for five terms on City Council representing the residents of Ward 4 in southeast Regina.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours from St. Francis Xavier University and a Master's of Science degree from

the London School of Economics. Michael has lived and worked in several provinces, Asia and Europe, focusing on economic development.

Steven Gibson

Steven is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Rock Hill, South Carolina. Prior to his current position, he served as the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director and was responsible for various activities including the budget (\$225M). Steven has been employed with the City of Rock Hill since 1990.

Steven serves as President-Elect on the GFOA US & Canada Executive Board, and has served as Chair of the GFOA National Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy (National Budget Committee). He is also Past President of the Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks and Treasurers Association of South Carolina.

Steven earned a Bachelor of Science with emphasis in Business Administration from Winthrop University, and earned a Certificate from the Advanced Government Finance Institute, University of Wisconsin School of Business.

Ed Harrington

Ed is a Board member and the Treasurer for Greenpeace International and an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco. He is also an advisor on accounting topics to Earth Economics and Water Now—two non-profits working on natural resource sustainability issues and a board member and Treasurer for SPUR, a Bay Area urban policy think tank and civic group.

Ed's background includes serving as Controller for the City and County of San Francisco for 17 years. He was also the General Manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. He has been active in many governmental and finance groups including being President of the Government Finance Officers Association of the US and Canada (2004).

Matthew V. Hartney

Matthew is a CPA, CMA and holds a Master's in Business Administration. As the Director of Advisory Services with

Speaker Biographies

Corvée Professional Accounting Corp., he serves his clients to help them improve their financial management and operations. An expert in corporate finance and accounting, he began focusing on Government and Public Sector at Ernst & Young in Ottawa, under the tutelage of the former Comptroller General of Canada, Mr. Charles-Antoine St-Jean.

Matthew has served various Public Sector clients across Canada as an external advisor and has also worked in municipalities as a Director. He is adept at explaining financial analysis and areas for improvement in a way that is easy to understand and implement and is dedicated to bettering Canadian communities through helping his clients succeed.

Ed Kaemingh

Ed has been involved with Local Government Finance since 2007. He is currently the Manager of Financial Service for Sturgeon County, AB. The Finance team regularly receives the GFOA Canadian Award for Financial Reporting, and most recently received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award for the first time for the 2016 Budget. Ed was previously with the City of St Albert as Manager of Financial Operations and Reporting and Senior Auditor and Senior Accountant at Alberta Blue Cross and working with accounting firms advising corporate clients on tax planning, review engagement and audit files.

Ed is a CPA and CMA and has been active with GFOA Alberta since 2010 serving in various roles. He has extensive volunteer experience with various committees, church groups, student executive council, and boards. He also volunteered as a coach for hockey, baseball, soccer, and currently enjoys playing hockey as a goaltender.

Karina LeBlanc

Karina played soccer for Canada for nearly 18 years culminating in a Bronze Medal at the London Olympics in 2012. Soccer has been her platform to realizing her greater purpose in life starting from her humble beginnings on Dominica.

After the World Cup in 2015, she finally decided it was time to hang up her cleats and explore her greater purpose. Being the longest standing soccer player of all time for Canada, (5

World Cups and 2 Olympic games), she would no longer be Karina LeBlanc the soccer player, but now Karina LeBlanc the person seeking to understand her new meaning in life.

For her, soccer was more than just a sport she played. It allowed her to gain confidence and realize that her voice is for a reason, which helped her become a UNICEF ambassador. Using her International career as a platform, she uses her experiences from her life and career to empower others and help them on their journey to being the best version of themselves.

Dawn Martin

Dawn is the Manager of Corporate Performance for the City of Regina. She leads performance reporting on the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) and Strategic Plan as well as leading the City's Service Review Program, an effort to assess and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery to residents. Her team is currently working on methods and approaches to better understand and report on overall operational performance by the City, and Regina's participation in the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada's Municipal Leads Committee is a key element of this work.

Dawn has a graduate degree in Applied Social Psychology, with a focus on program evaluation. She has served in a range of capacities both in government, the non-profit sector and as a private consultant.

Dr. Jim McDavid

Jim is a Professor at the University of Victoria and is one of Canada's leading public administration scholars in the fields of program evaluation, performance measurement and performance management. Jim has a PhD (Indiana University), MA, MA and BA.

He has been with the University since 1980 and has received numerous awards and honours for distinguished professorship including recipient of the UVic Alumni Teaching Award in 1993, received UVic's highest academic honour in 2004, the UVic Distinguished Professorship award which included a five year appointment as a Distinguished University Professor in the Faculty of Human and Social

Development (2004-2009).

Jim has authored a number of publications and academic books and has also made substantial scholarly contributions to the local government field both nationally and internationally. Professor McDavid is listed in the Who's Who of Canada.

Lindsay Parcels

Lindsay has practiced local government law at Lidstone & Company since 2011. He was called to the Alberta bar in 1992 and the B.C. bar in 1995. He advises clients on a wide variety of issues with particular emphasis on real estate, expropriation, corporate/commercial and procurement law.

Lindsay is active in the Municipal Law section of the Canadian Bar Association and he is the past Co-Chair of the Municipal Law Section of the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the National Municipal Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association. He is also active in a number of associations including GFOA of B.C. and the Law Societies of Alberta and BBC and authored a number of publications and presentations.

Michael Puskaric

Michael is the Director, Public Sector Accounting Standards for the Public Sector Accounting Board. His role is to be the champion for improving public sector accounting practices across Canada by sharing knowledge, encouraging collaboration and leading the development of standards. He has a broad base of experience based on more than 15 years working in public, private and not-for-profit sector organizations.

Michael is a CPA and a CMA. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Ryerson University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Schulich School of Business at York University in Toronto, Canada.

Hash Qureshi

Hassan ("Hash") is a Partner with MNP's Enterprise Risk practice and has 25 years of experience in business and digital transformations. He holds numerous risk related

professional designations in corporate governance, program risk, information systems audit, risk management and IT governance as well as being a Professional Engineer and a Certified Management Accountant. He is also a Privacy by Design (PbD) Ambassador recognized by the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario.

Prior to MNP, Hash was with Ernst & Young, Cognos, and the Department of National Defence (DND). He has delivered numerous risk processes, internal control and audit related presentations to many organizations. He has also been interviewed by the CBC radio for Identity theft and Backbone magazine for his views about the future of the Internet and Web 3.0.

Jody Rechenmacher

Jody is a Consultant with Urban Systems Ltd. and works alongside local governments and community organizations to develop strategies, plans, designs, and processes to improve public service delivery, sustainability, and civic health. She is a Professional Engineer and a member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia's Sustainability Committee.

Jody is also a director and Community Catalyst with Urban Matters CCC, a social venture platform developed to bridge the business, philanthropy, and public sectors to create and implement system changing initiatives and better outcomes for communities. She is also the board chair and co-founder of the Engineering Leadership Council, a registered non-profit organization working to shift the paradigm of the engineering profession to realize better social outcomes of infrastructure projects.

Craig Reynolds

Craig is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. He was previously the Senior VP and CFO for the Club. Most notably, he has led all aspects of the Club's involvement in the development of the new Mosaic Stadium, Saskatchewan's iconic new sports and entertainment venue. It is his vision that the new Stadium will create an opportunity to grow revenue, enhance the ability to recruit and retain players, coaches, and staff, and deliver a world class fan experience for the organization's

Speaker Biographies

passionate fan base.

Craig has a Bachelor of Commerce, with Distinction, and a Masters in Professional Accounting from the University of Saskatchewan. He also has his Chartered Accountant Designation. He began working with KPMG in 1998 in Saskatoon before transferring to the company's Luxembourg location. Then he moved to London, England in 2003 to work for Thomson Scientific in a Financial Accounting role. Just prior to relocating back to Saskatchewan to join the Riders, he worked for Suncor Energy in Alberta for four years where he departed as Senior Manager of the Oil Sands Cost Management Program.

Karen Sinclair

Karen is a CPA-CGA, who has worked in South-of-the-Border, Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley local government since 1989. She has held positions in financial planning, financial reporting, property taxation, business improvement and strategic planning in the cities of Surrey and Abbotsford and more recently as Director of Finance for the Township of Langley.

Karen has enjoyed a long term relationship with the Government Finance Officers Association of BC spending a term as Director at Large, chairing the Lower Mainland Collectors Forum, instructing and co-authoring the manual for the Property Tax section of GFOA's Finance Officers' Bootcamp.

When Karen is not at work, she teaches group fitness, is a novice writer and enjoys binge watching the reality TV show called The Trump Administration.

Chris Stephan

Chris is a CPA, CA and a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) with MNP and has several years of professional experience in performance optimization, internal audit, risk assessment and mitigation, risk analytics, financial management, project management, quality assurance and reviews of internal controls over financial reporting.

Chris has participated in large business transformations

projects in areas of strategic advisory and system implementations, and possesses deep knowledge of industry best practice risk and control frameworks. He also has experience in technology security, IT advisory, financial controls and related risk management advisory services.

Chris previously worked as an Internal Auditor and Senior Financial Officer within the Government of Canada (GoC), including at the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS).

Erin Stephen

Erin is a CPA and CA and is a Director in PwC's Risk Assurance practice. She has more than 15 years of experience in providing support to organizations. As Manager of Financial Reporting at Strathcona County, Erin established business processes and internal controls to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the new financial reporting standards, measuring relevant performance information for presentation to Council and the public through a redesign of the quarterly and annual reports.

Erin received her Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Saskatchewan. She has a strong interest in education and community as evidenced through her work with the Aboriginal Head Start Program, and with CPA Canada's community financial literacy, and other professional development programs.

Bob Thompson

With a passion for the industry and twenty years in the business, Bob leads Thompson Investment Partners of Raymond James Ltd. as VP, Portfolio Manager and brings a consultative focus to municipal and institutional finance. During his tenure, he has been called upon by the media to share his insights based on his extensive knowledge on building portfolios, especially using alternative approaches.

Bob wrote a column on Alternative Investing for the National Post for five years, and has also been called upon by the Globe and Mail and numerous other publications for his common sense insights. In addition, he has appeared regularly on Canada's national business network, BNN, for the last 14 years, as well as CBC, Global TV, and now is a frequent commentator on City TV in Vancouver.

John Van Horne

John has spent the last 20+ years in a variety of interesting work environments for both private and public sector employers. Starting in the forest industry, his career took him through the K:12 education sector and a provincial government contract before he landed in local government.

In 2003, John worked as a generalist Human Resources Manager in both municipal and regional district settings before becoming the Director of Human Resources at the City of Nanaimo in 2015.

John has a degree in Commerce from UBC, and has continued his professional development through UBC's Executive Education program as well as the Local Government Management Association in BC

Dave Warren

Dave has been a Principal of the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of Canada since August of 2015. He is a CPA and CA.

Prior to joining PSAB, he worked for 10 years at KPMG LLP in the financial institutions audit group where he was engaged to audit the capital markets section of one of the country's large banks and worked in the firm's professional practice group where he specialized in financial instruments, share based compensation and income taxes. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Accounting from the University of British Columbia.

Mary Winchell

Mary is currently a Human Resources Manager at the City of Nanaimo. She has worked in the Human Resources field for 15 years in both the public and private sectors and has experience researching and evaluating performance management and succession planning strategies and programs.

Mary's education includes a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Waterloo and an MBA from Royal Roads University. She has continued her professional development

through Queens University Industrial Relations Centre and Capilano University's local government program.

Rick Wojtkiw

Rick is the General Manager of Corporate Support for Sturgeon County. He has been with Sturgeon County for 18 years, first as the Manager of Finance and more recently the General Manager of Corporate Services. Rick has 26 years in the municipal finance role. Before he joined Sturgeon County, he spent 8 years with Alberta Municipal Affairs in the Municipal Services Branch. He is a CPA and CMA.

Rick was elected to the Alberta GFOA Board in 2008 and has served as the president for three years. He has also been part of the Western GFOA Board since 2011 serving as president for one year.

Devin Woods

Devin is a Client Relations Manager with the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO). He has significantly contributed to the delivery and management of economic development and capacity strengthening programs spanning the regions of Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, British Columbia, and Ontario.

Devin has also implemented tailored mentorship programs in partnership with the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT), and the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO). Last year, he also implemented a program in partnership with the First Nations Financial Management Board (FNFMB) to support communities FMB Certification and financial management.

Over the past ten years, Devin has worked with, organizations and communities around the world, and in partnership with Indigenous communities across Canada, to support their economic development objectives.

Thank You

Thank you to the Local Committee

The success of any conference lies in the ability to form a local committee to plan and execute the tasks and responsibilities to make it a unique and memorable event. Beneath this committee is a network of volunteers that dedicate their time and effort to completing assigned tasks.

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Local Committee:

Lorrie Schmalenberg
Amber Gervais
Bert Luzny
Gail Tilson
Karla Kozoriz
Amna Choudhry
Jason MacDonald

Deb Cooney
Colleen Trombetta
Janet Aird
Dawn Schikowski
Nicollette Harbis
Jeff May
Breanne Howden

William Pengelly
Elizenda Israel
Summer Xia
Kayosha Wilson
Aileen Basco
Cindy Blyth

.....and all of the volunteers from The City of Regina for dedicating their time and support to help in coordinating a successful event.

The guidance and dedication of Sam Weller, Susan Broadfoot, Penny Bruin, and Lorrie Schmalenberg was also instrumental and contributed immensely to the success of the 2017 Western Canada GFOA Conference.

Thank you to The City of Regina.

The Western Canada Government Finance Officers' Association looks forward to seeing everyone again at its conference next year in the beautiful City of Winnipeg, Manitoba.



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