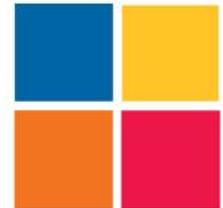




Canadian Association of Government Finance Officers



VOLUME 10 - NO. 3

Save the Date for the 2020 CAGFO Conference!



Planning is already underway for the 2020 Conference in Edmonton, AB. Join us on September 16 – 18, 2020.

All conference events will be held at the The Sutton Place Hotel (10235 101 St NW) except for the Tuesday evening reception which will be held at a TBD local place of interest in Edmonton.

You can help us build the program by letting us know what topics interest you and what you need to hear about next year – complete our 2020 Conference Preference survey [here](#). You can also let us know your preferred topics or speakers by completing [this form](#) and sending to Sam@cagfo.ca.

CAGFO is currently recruiting for a local organizing committee for the 2020 CAGFO Conference. The local planning committee organizes the

conference social events at Edmonton landmarks. If you are local to Edmonton or familiar with the city, we need your help! Please contact Ed Kaemingh at ekaemingh@sturgeoncounty.ca for more information.

A twenty booth Trade Show is in the early planning stages but feel free to connect with Anne Stacey to confirm your interest now. Planning is in the early stages but with only 20 booths, they are sure to sell out fast!

Sponsorship opportunities will be confirmed in the coming weeks but again, connect with Anne Stacey should you wish to confirm your support early.

We look forward to seeing you in Edmonton in September 2020! So mark your calendars or even book your hotel room [here](#)!

SAM WELLER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM CAGFO



CAGFO Executive Director, Sam Weller, has announced his retirement. He and Susan have been organizing conferences for GFOA of Western Canada and CAGFO since 2008. Over the last twelve years, they have helped

the Association become better organized, the conferences become more professional and the sponsorship support to become more predictable. The National Association is now established and in a financially stable position.

Sam said: “It is now time for me to step aside and pass the reins to someone else who can take it to the next level. I will be 72 in January and have many unfinished projects that I want to pursue.”

The Board will work with Sam over the next couple of months to develop a transition plan, which will ensure the organization is properly staffed and continues to thrive in the future.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President’s Report	2
PSAB News	
Partner Events	3
2019 CAGFO Conference	4
Library Forum Report	5
2019-20 CAGFO Board	
Transforming Capital Budgets Using Data Transparency	6

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-20

Noreen Kassam
(President)
City of Burnaby, BC

Kelly Lemoine
(Vice President)
City of Winnipeg, MB

Jason Turnbull
(Treasurer)
City of Saskatoon, SK

Katherine Macdonald
(Secretary)
City of Yellowknife, NT

Lorrie Schmalenberg
(Past-President)
City of Regina, SK

Karen Grommada
City of Port Coquitlam, BC

Kelly Gibson
Town of Banff, AB

Ed Kaemingh
Sturgeon County, AB

Gary Kent
City of Mississauga, ON

Paul Wills
Nova Scotia MFC, NS

Penny Bruin
(Non-voting)

[CAGFO Contact: office@cagfo.ca](mailto:office@cagfo.ca)
(604) 493-2017

President's Report

I am humbled and truly excited to be elected as the Association's President for a second year.

Wow! What a year! The board worked hard putting together Committees and Special Interest Groups focusing on member engagement. We further expanded our membership by 20% and continued increasing membership throughout Canada. Our National job posting site, in partnership with CivicInfo, has proven to be successful in informing our membership on job opportunities in local government throughout Canada.

This year's conference was amazing; our largest conference yet with 315 attendees. The theme "Responding to Disruption, Opportunities for Finance" brought dynamic speakers with inspiring information and tools to help us through the many

disruptions we encounter on a daily basis. After the conference, the board engaged in a Strategic Planning session to confirm our goals for the coming year. Our goals are to provide a high quality conference with relevant topics, increase membership throughout Canada, membership satisfaction of offerings, strengthening our partnerships and financial sustainability. The board will now develop action plans with measures in the coming months to ensure the achievement of these goals.

Thank you to the membership, board members and staff for your continued efforts and support. Let's make 2020 another exciting year!



Noreen Kassam, CPA, CGA
Director Finance
City of Burnaby, BC
noreen.kassam@burnaby.ca

PSAB News: Have your say on proposed PPP accounting standard

There are over 250 public private partnerships (PPP) in Canada with capital investment of more than \$100 billion. PPPs deliver vital public infrastructure such as highways, bridges, transit, hospitals and schools.

On November 1, 2019, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) issued its [Exposure Draft, Public Private Partnerships](#), outlining a proposed standard to account for PPP arrangements

PSAB's proposals include:

- Scope and recognition criteria so stakeholders know when to recognize PPP infrastructure;
- measurement guidance to identify capital costs separately from ongoing operating and maintenance; and
- presentation and disclosure requirements that highlight to the users of financial statements the key terms and conditions of the PPP.

Recognition criteria focus on whether the public sector entity controls the infrastructure. If it does, the entity must recognize

both the infrastructure asset and a corresponding liability. Measuring the cost of a PPP asset will require judgment and estimates, much like measuring the cost of constructed tangible capital assets.

Recognition and measurement will have an immediate impact on a government's net debt. The value of the infrastructure asset will affect annual amortization, while the discount rate used will impact a government's annual interest charges.

PSAB understands that the proposed standard will impact governments and their financial results. It is essential for government financial officers to share their views on the proposed standard for PSAB deliberations. Comment on the proposed standard by February 29, 2020 and follow PSAB's private public partnership project at FRASCanada.ca/public-sector/projects/public-private-partnerships.

Umar Saeed, MAcc, CPA, CA.

Principal

Public Sector Accounting Board

PARTNERS



GOLD SPONSORS



Partner Events

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

May 17-20, 2020
GFOA International
New Orleans, LA

June 7-10, 2020
GFOA Alberta
Red Deer, AB

June 3-5, 2020
Kamloops, BC
GFOA BC

September 16-18, 2020
CAGFO
Edmonton, AB

May 26-28, 2021
GFOA BC
Victoria, BC

May 30-June 2, 2021
GFOA Alberta
Banff, AB

June 27-30, 2021
GFOA International
Chicago, IL



Red Deer, AB | Jun. 7-10, 2020



GOLD SPONSORS



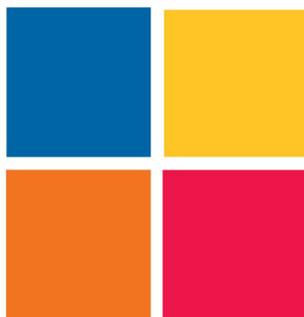
SILVER SPONSORS



Accounting & Auditing Workshop:
Nov. 21-22
Conference: Kamloops, BC
Jun. 3-5, 2020



Edmonton, AB
Sept. 16-18, 2020



2019 CAGFO Conference - In Review



Our annual conference: “Responding to Disruption: Opportunities for Finance” was held in Richmond, BC in September and was a great success with over 315 attendees.

On Tuesday night we commenced the conference with a Welcome Reception at the remarkable Richmond Olympic Oval. It was an opportunity for everyone to reconnect and meet new colleagues from around the country. There was lots of friendly competition as we challenged each other on the various Olympic sport simulators. The bobsleigh, race car and ski jump were the favourites!

On Wednesday, we began the day with a few words from the Mayor of Richmond, Mayor Brodie.

Ted Graham, Head of Open Innovation of General Motors,

provided us with a glimpse into the future on modes of transportation and some motivation to think differently and accept and use the disruptions on the way to make us all more responsive and efficient.

We then broke out into many concurrent sessions, ranging from Smart Cities to Circular Procurement, sessions on Workforces of the Future, Transformation of Systems, and Emergency Management to the PSAB Update. Our Library Finance Officers and Budget Officers also had the opportunity to engage in forums and share information. Between sessions there was an opportunity to network and get new ideas at the trade show. Thursday, Charles-Antoine, Chair of PSAB, provided us with some insightful information on the role of the Finance Officer and traits we should embrace to be successful: be curious, be courageous, be strategic and be fun. Shayne Kavanagh from GFOA International, shared GFOA’s research on a new formula for how local governments can maintain their financial health and thereby contribute to a thriving community. He also reviewed GFOA’s new Code of Ethics. Once again there was a myriad of concurrent sessions ranging

from Asset Retirement Obligations to Ransomware Attacks, Police Funding, to Citizen Engagement and Budgeting Strategies. Our PSAB and Asset Management Special Interest Groups were able to discuss emerging topics and the Police Finance Officers were able to share and engage in relevant discussions. Thursday night we enjoyed a delicious meal together, played an Escape Room Game and danced the night away.

On the final morning we listened to a disruption panel, and a Canadian Economic Update, finishing with an inspiring talk from Senator Mobina S.B. Jaffer on how she has turned adversity into opportunities, but disruptions continue throughout life. It was an exciting week with lots to learn and see, while making many new connections along the way.

Thank you to everyone who made our 2019 conference a success.

We look forward to seeing you at next year’s conference in Edmonton, Alberta.

*Karen Grommada | City of Port Coquitlam
Director of Finance*

Library Forum Report

Representatives from 6 libraries or Library groups (in Alberta referred to as a Library System) met at a crowded round table to discuss six pre-selected topics and to share experiences. Joining us were several observers, including a representative from KPMG. The 90 minutes allocated for the forum proved insufficient and time was unanimously extended by 30 minutes, which still did not allow us to complete discussion on our last topic.

Nancy Gomerich, of the Fraser Valley Re-

gional System, volunteered to set up an online forum, that could meet quarterly to continue the discussions. When Sam was advised he volunteered to run this through CAGFO, so that a professional development credit could be recorded. A more detailed reporting of items discussed, and an invitation to join the online forum, will be sent to a larger group of library finance officers.

*Elrose Klause, Controller and Director Financial Services
Calgary Public Library*

Meet the New 2019- 2020 CAGFO Board



CAGFO BOARD OF DIRECTORS and Life Members 2019 - 2020

LEFT TO RIGHT:

Noreen Kassam (President), Kelly Gibson, Kelly Lemoine (Vice President), Diana Lokken (LM), Penny Bruin, Archie Johnston (LM), Katherine MacDonald (Secretary), Jason Turnbull (Treasurer), Ed Kaemingh, Paul Wills, Karen Grommada, Lorrie Schmalenberg (Past President), Sam Weller (Executive Director)

BRONZE SPONSORS



Transforming Capital Budgets Using Data Transparency

Public infrastructure, such as roads, water systems, buildings and recreational parks, provide important services to citizens. It's the responsibility of local governments to ensure these facilities are maintained and made accessible to the public. For this reason, municipalities use capital budgets to administer capital improvement plans (CIP) that facilitate long-term asset procurement and preservation. However, it is not always easy to communicate how tax dollars are spent and how CIP projects are decided. It can be particularly challenging when your citizens are passionate about the infrastructure projects taking place in their neighborhoods.

Data and budget transparency has many benefits for municipalities who want to engage citizens and help them better understand your capital budget. Sharing capital budget information and CIP initiatives help you demonstrate accountability and fiscal responsibility. An open and transparent capital budgeting process that involves communicating with citizens and inviting their views can foster greater trust in your local government's performance.

Transparency best practices include:

- Developing a communications plan that explains capital needs, options and strategies for the community.
- Providing clear and consistent messages with accurate information about a project's cost, duration and impact.

- Encouraging citizen engagement during the budgeting process to obtain a broad range of opinions and ensure the decision-making process is truly collaborative.

Many municipalities have used data visualization tools to translate their budgets into content that educates and engages citizens. One example is how the City of Burlington in Ontario is using data visualization for capital projects on the burlington.ca site under the Budget section of their website. Under the tab "[Open Budget](#)" their transparency site has an interactive map that displays all of the City's capital projects. This includes project information, such as the budget, funding sources, related projects and associated documentation and images. Citizens can see where projects are located and how much the City is spending on different projects in the area where they live and work.

Capital budgets are important for administering the capital improvement planning required to keep facilities and services available to citizens. Municipalities that use transparency best practices during the capital budgeting process will demonstrate accountability, foster trust and help citizens gain a better understanding of capital planning initiatives.

