

# WESTERN CANADA



## Opportunities!



We have sent out requests for session ideas and have lots of responses. Penny is sorting through them to establish an exciting and informative program that will meet the educational and professional needs of our members. We already have Tim Beauchamp from PSAB

When asked about the theme for our conference, the local organizing committee all agreed that the one word "Opportunities" summed up what was happening in Saskatoon these days and would be a great way for finance officers across Western Canada to look at the challenges that are facing us all.

Challenges and opportunities are definitely two sides of the same coin. The rapid growth and high employment are great opportunities for Saskatoon right now; but they bring challenges of providing new infrastructure and attracting staff. Many mill towns in British Columbia are facing revenue challenges; but several have taken the opportunity to forge partnerships and reinvent themselves as retirement communities. We hope that this conference will challenge you to see new financial opportunities for your organization.

committed to do two sessions: one being the regular annual PSAB update for those that have been dealing with the issues for years and one being a more basic introduction to PSAB for those from hospitals, Universities and Indian bands who are still dealing with the changeover. The committee has chosen the appropriately named "Boomtown" museum for the Thursday night dinner and are busy planning entertainment and activities fitting for the occasion.

Don't miss the opportunity to come to Saskatoon in September!



Tim Beauchamp, CMA

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## Saskatoon 2013!

## Encouraging Strategic Asset Management

In the last five years, asset management has emerged as one of the core services for government, providing a framework for balancing budgetary, engineering and service-level demands and policy makers are taking initiative. In Ontario, the provincial government has recently begun encouraging municipalities and regional governments to provide asset management plans with any new request for funding. In the U.S., consent decrees have emerged as a significant impetus for adoption. The pressing question is how to ensure these initiatives drive sustainable improvement in asset management practices, as opposed to a gold rush for short-term solutions.

The Implementation of PSAB 3150 in Canada shows both benefits and pitfalls of regulatory guidance. As a guideline, it made government organizations explicitly accountable for reporting on the inventory of all their assets. In some cases, this provided a unique opportunity to implement improved asset management practices. For example, the City of Burlington recently built a 100-year asset

management plan leveraging the inventory and system they used for compliance reporting. In others, PSAB 3150 was met through tactical solutions that do not deliver any value to the organization other than compliance, and continue to extract a high cost in effort without apparent return.

Where an asset management plan is required of an organization, they can meet that requirement either by outsourcing the creation of the plan to a third-party organization or by implementing sustainable asset management processes. The third-party option can appeal where the organization has not been convinced of the benefit of asset management or if they believe the requirement will only apply for a brief period. They will then just treat it as an additional expense when making a request for funding.

Policy makers can ensure sustainable improvement in asset management practices by planning for the long term.



**Ian Woodbury**  
CEO, Riva Modeling Systems Inc.  
Toronto, Ontario



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# WESTERN CANADA



## President's Message

Did you know? Saskatoon was voted number one in Canada for air and water quality by Chatelaine magazine. Average temperature in Saskatoon in September is a high of 17 C. Saskatoon is one of the sunniest cities in Canada. Saskatoon is the location for the Western Canadian Government Finance Officer's annual conference. Plan to join us September 18 -20, 2013. The local organizing committee is hard at work on the theme of OPPORTUNITIES! Your WCGFOA board has also been at work: in order to continue to ensure a high quality conference, we've renewed the contract with Broadwell Services as well as enlisted the services of Penny Bruin to work on the program. We'll be asking for your input so make sure you take time to reply to our requests and make YOUR conference the best ever.

**Lorrie Schmalenberg, CGA**  
Manager, Corporate Accounting  
Corporate Services

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## Conference Topics

What would make a difference to what you and your staff are dealing with? What topics would you like to see addressed at the conference? Do you have any suggestions for speakers or activities.?

Please let us know, so that we can incorporate your ideas into what we are offering at this year's conference.

Contact Penny Bruin [pbruin@primus.ca](mailto:pbruin@primus.ca)





# WESTERN CANADA



## Join us in Saskatoon for the 2013 Conference

### September 18-20 2013

Join in us in Canada's newest boomtown, the city of Saskatoon!

Registration will open at the beginning of April and cost \$600 per delegate. We will send an email to notify everyone on our list.

The conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel within close proximity to the city's riverfront trails and amenities.

### Hotel Reservations

The Radisson Saskatoon is located downtown, offering views of the South Saskatchewan River Valley and City Center – a short 0.8 kilometer away.

To reserve your room at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon for the conference September 18-20 please use this link or call (306) 665-3322. The conference rate is \$179 and the promo code is GFOA.

### Online booking link:

<http://www.radisson.com/reservation/itineraryEntrance.do?paclink=Y&promoCode=GFOA&hotelCode=SKSASKAT>



### TRADE SHOW REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/GFOAWCExhibitors.asp>

A map of the trade show area is included in the registration form. You can choose your booth preferences when you register. Conference sponsors are given the first opportunity to select spaces, with the remainder allocated by indicated preference on a "first-registered, first-served" basis.

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If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Susan Broadfoot at:  
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