

WESTERN CANADA



From Reaction to Resilience: Strengthening Communities

The theme for our 2014 conference in Calgary this fall will be: From Reaction to Resilience: Strengthening Communities. This idea clearly came from the Local Organizing committee wanting to generate lessons from last year's flood in Calgary. How do communities prepare to be able to respond to that sort of emergency? Is there anything they can do to prevent certain events? How can we all become more resilient? In particular, what can the Finance department do? These issues will be addressed by various experts and a day long stream will be devoted to the issues so that this will attract non-finance staff as well. We are hopeful that Mayor Nenshi of Calgary will be able to speak; but certainly some of the staff who were directly involved will be available to share their experiences and the lessons they learned. As in past conferences, we will offer all the regular features in our program: the Economic update, the annual PSAB update



(Tim Beauchamp is already confirmed), the Budget Officers Forum etc. and an address by the President of the GFOA International. We will also address any emerging financial issues that you will need to be dealing with over the next year. While the program is yet to be finalized, we can assure you that it will be dynamic, relevant, and professional.

General Rick Hillier will be our Keynote



We are proud to present our Keynote Speaker, General Rick Hillier, retired, who has 30 years of experience with the Canadian Forces, including the three he served as Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff. Throughout his career, he has had the privilege and pleasure of commanding troops from the platoon to multi-national formation level with Canada, Europe, Asia and the United States. The leadership skills for responding to a disaster situation are not so different than those on the front lines of combat. General Hillier will provide his insight into what it takes for individuals to be responsive and resilient in times of emergency when it is necessary to get the job done.

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WESTERN CANADA



Presidents Report

Hello everyone. Right about now, I'm sure most of us realize that procrastinating on those few reconciliations and journal entries during the year has now come around to bite us ... in the you know where! As we scramble to complete year-end, the sun is shining in Alberta and the snow is finally melting.

Speaking of Alberta, the City of Calgary is no stranger to being ranked number one in surveys regarding economic, social or environmental issues. For 2014, Calgary also ranks number one on another list, Calgary is the top destination for the **Western GFOA Conference!** Calgary, who are well known for their generosity and down to earth hospitality, has opened their doors October 8 to 10 to educate and entertain us at the downtown "Palliser Hotel."

To date, there has been a significant amount of planning discussion regarding appropriate topics for the conference presentation. As always the board, staff and conference organizers strive to provide information on the latest topics relevant to finance officers across Western Canada. The conference has a good balance between technical, leadership and motivational sessions to ensure that we all benefit.

Lately, board activity has centered on revising the organization's constitution to comply with new federal standards, modifying the website to facilitate job postings and of course conference planning.

The Board of Directors welcomed some new and returning members. Lindsay Schneider joins the board from the City of Whitehorse. Noreen Kassam from the City of Burnaby fills the seat vacated by Diana Lokken from the Capital Regional District and Carl Bird from the City of Yellowknife has returned to the board after a brief hiatus.

Many thanks from myself and the board for all the hard work Diana has contributed over the years.

Make sure to book the 8th to 10th in Calgary so I will see you there!

Rick Wojtkiw, CMA
General Manager,
Corporate Support
Sturgeon County



SAVE THESE DATES

International GFOA Minneapolis, MN May 18-21, 2014
GFOA ALBERTA Red Deer, AB May 25-28, 2014
GFOABC Nanaimo, BC May 28-30, 2014

WESTERN CANADA



CFO's Report to the Audit Committee: Delivering Your Message

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Kristine Simpson is a Partner in the BDO Canada LLP Public Sector Group and works out of BDO's Vancouver and Langley offices



WESTERN CANADA



Conference in Calgary, October 8th to 10th, 2014

Hotel

Our room block at the Palliser is already full, so we have rooms at the Marriott across the road at the same rate.

Please go to . <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/GFOAWestern>

Tradeshow

We are pleased to welcome both returning and new exhibitors!! Please register here for the tradeshow at:

[http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/
event/GFOAWCExhibitors.asp](http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/GFOAWCExhibitors.asp)

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Registration

Will officially open in April. We will be circulating a brochure with program details next month. Cost will be \$600 . (\$650 after July 15th)
<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/GFOAWCDelegates.asp>



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