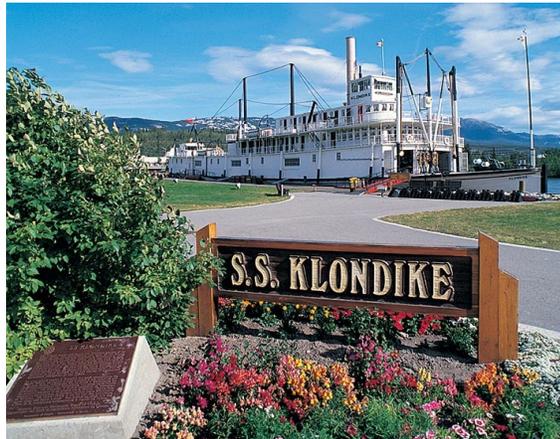


"Larger than Life: Achieving Standards of Excellence"

The Yukon is Larger than Life! In fact that is the Territorial slogan. Our conference theme combines the idea that we have big issues with the idea that we are driven by standards, accounting, environmental and moral. This leaves us with big opportunities to not only meet those standards; but actually achieve excellence. We are assembling a great selection of speakers and presenters that will challenge you, educate you and inspire you so go beyond the ordinary, to exceed the standards that others set for you, to be larger than life—to achieve excellence!

And all of this in a glorious setting that most of us don't get to see very often. The Yukon truly is Canada's frontier. The local committee are inviting people to come up a day or two early and/or stay a day or



two late. They have listed lots of activities and trips in an [online brochure](#) including dog-carting, river rafting, golf. Relaxing in natural mineral waters of Takhini Hotsprings or taking a trip to one of the old gold-rush towns.

Auditor General to speak in Whitehorse



Michael Ferguson, FCA
Auditor General of Canada

Michael Ferguson was appointed Auditor General of Canada on 28 November 2011. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Deputy Minister of Finance of New Brunswick and Secretary to the Board of Management for the Province of New Brunswick from 2010 to 2011.

Mr. Ferguson held the position of Comptroller for the province of New Brunswick from 2000 to 2005. He was also Auditor General of New Brunswick from 2005 to 2010.

He is a past president of the New Brunswick Institute of Chartered Accountants and served a three-year term as a member of the Public Sector Accounting Board. Mr. Ferguson was elected to the Fellowship of the New Brunswick Institute of Chartered Accountants in 2011.

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WESTERN CANADA



Presidents Report



Dean Rear
Metro Vancouver

It's hard to believe that it is already March! Time flies for most of us at this time of the year. This is typically the busiest stretch for finance staff in local government as we wrap up year end and deal with auditors and perhaps grapple with the last few issues on the budget before turning our minds to preparing for tax time.

This is the time of year when good decisions on professional development pay off. Whether it's dealing with the application of new accounting standards, explaining a new concept for reserve funding for infrastructure replacement to your elected officials, or just keeping a balanced lifestyle through the pressure of it all. Hopefully the training you've undertaken in the past is supporting you through this tough period.

Our preparations for the 2015 conference in the beautiful City of Whitehorse are in high gear. We are all very excited to have the Auditor General of Canada, Michael Ferguson, joining us as one of our keynote speakers, and the local organizing committee is very excited for the opportunity to showcase their community to their southern colleagues. Hopefully you can find a moment to look at your calendar and plan to join us for some quality professional development to get you ready for the next cycle.

All the best through this busy time!

Job Posting Service

Our job posting service is working well. There is usually 10 to 20 jobs on the site with about 3-7 new ones posted every week.

We accept any government finance position in Western Canada where the candidates are required to have a professional accounting designation.

Check out:
<http://westcangfoa.ca/job-postings/>

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Tips & Red Flags to help protect your organization from fraudulent activity :

Malware AKA malicious software

Malware infiltrates your computer system and performs unauthorized activities and transactions. Examples include email takeover, denial of service, data breaches and theft.

- Regularly update your anti-virus and anti-malware software.
- Always verify the source of fund transfer requests.
- Beware of emails requesting account information, account verification or banking credentials (such as usernames and passwords).
- Never give out your personal identity credentials or any financial information. A financial institution will not request this kind of information.

Phishing and spear phishing

Phishing is one of the most common ways to infect your computer system with malware. Phishing typically takes the form of unsolicited emails that appear legitimate with real company names and logos such as banks and insurance companies.

- Be suspicious of requests by email, phone or text for confidential information regardless of real company logos, or letterheads.
- Never click on a link in a suspicious email. You may be directed to a fraudulent site, or by clicking, enable malware such as spyware to monitor your keystrokes and gain access to financial information.

Internet pop-ups and scareware

These pop-ups often contain urgent messages such as “security warnings” and “high risk of threats”. This is also known as *Scareware*.

- Ensure that your company has controls for Internet pop-ups.
- Educate your users to be cautious of allowing pop-ups to be displayed or responding to the messages.

Purchasing card security

Fraudsters don't necessarily need your physical card to commit fraud. They can make unauthorized transactions online or by telephone using only the purchasing card number and the expiration date.

- Use Chip and PIN cards when available. The new chip and pin technology has an encrypted microchip which is very difficult to counterfeit.
- Use the Card Verification Number Scheme (CVS) or Card Verification Value (CVV) as it cannot be skimmed. It provides an additional layer of security.
- Never give card information through email unless the email is encrypted and you are certain that the recipient is genuine.

Article by staff of BMO Financial group



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WESTERN CANADA



Whitehorse - September 14th to 16th

The Westmark Hotel

is our conference hotel. We recommend you make your reservation now! Go to:

[Westmark Whitehorse Reservation Link](#)

Or phone the Hotel at 1-800-544-0970 and book using group code GOF1091315

Registration

The conference cost is \$600 including meals and social events (\$650 after June 30th) Registration is officially open on April 1st; but it is possible to register early on-line at: <http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2015/GFOAWCDelegates.asp>

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Tradeshow

We are pleased to welcome both returning and new exhibitors! Please register here for the tradeshow at: <http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2015/GFOAWCExhibitors.asp>

For more information call Susan at 250 598 6871



Getting to Whitehorse

The last time we had a conference in Whitehorse, flights were really expensive. Times have changed—there are now three airlines serving the Yukon: Air Canada, Air North and WestJet.

Given that the hotel rooms in Whitehorse are about \$100 night cheaper than they were in Calgary last year, we expect that for most people the total conference cost will be about the same as an average year.

There are direct flights from Vancouver, Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton, Yellowknife and Ottawa. However only Vancouver has flights every day. Please go to the individual airline websites to check the schedules for your City.

AIR CANADA  **WESTJET** 

