

WESTERN CANADA



Great Keynote Speakers Lined up for Whitehorse

We are excited to have two first class keynote speakers at our Conference in Whitehorse September 14th to 16th, 2015.

Jon Montgomery captured the hearts of Canadians—and the attention of everyone during the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games. When he won a gold medal in the skeleton, securing his place in history as one of the best. His celebratory walk through Whistler (drinking beer from a jug) showcased his passion, spirit, and sense of humour—traits that he brings to every platform, whether in front of a live audience or on TV.

Samantha Nutt is an award-winning humanitarian, best-selling author and acclaimed public speaker. A medical doctor and a founder of the renowned international humanitarian organization War Child, Dr. Nutt has worked with children and their families at the frontline of many of the world's major crises – from Iraq to Afghanistan, Somalia to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone to Darfur, Sudan. A leading authority on current affairs, war, international aid and foreign policy, Dr Nutt is one of the most intrepid and recognized voices in the humanitarian arena and is a sought-after public speaker.



PHOTO BY DUSTIN RABIN

Air North flights to Whitehorse:

Air North has offered our delegates a 30% discount on flights to Whitehorse, booked prior to June 30th and a 15% discount thereafter.

Simply go to: <http://www.flyairnorth.com/>

and enter promo codes: GFOA2015



"Larger than Life: Achieving Standards of Excellence"

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Contact us:

westan.gfoa@shaw.ca

(250) 598-6871

www.westcangfoa.ca

Presidents Report



Dean Rear
Metro Vancouver

As I relax on the deck at the end of a beautiful Victoria Day long weekend, my mind doesn't easily turn to work. With summer squarely in sight most of us are looking forward to some well-deserved time away from the office during the shortest of Canadian seasons. However, reality soon sets in and once again I am thinking about new systems, revenue sources, long term planning and a myriad of other issues that you are all probably thinking about as well.

As local government finance officers we are challenged to be both mindful of the present, but looking to the future when the value of our contributions and decisions today will be truly measured. However, if you can just look past summer, hopefully you have made plans to attend the conference in September in Whitehorse where Jon Montgomery and Dr. Samantha Nutt have joined the Auditor General for Canada Michael Ferguson as keynote speakers for our 2015 conference. They support a strong program framed around the themes of Excellence, Beyond Asset Management, Finance and Accounting Standards, and Procurement.

Although the almost endless summer days that they experience in Whitehorse will be gone by the time we arrive in September, this opportunity for a northern experience with such a strong set of speakers is not to be missed. Now, if only I can manage to miss that Sour Toe cocktail. Have a great summer!

WESTERN CANADA CONFERENCES OVER THE YEARS

- 1995 Regina
- 1996 Calgary
- 1997 Kelowna
- 1998 Whitehorse
- 1999 Winnipeg
- 2000 Saskatoon
- 2001 Edmonton
- 2002 Vancouver
- 2003 Regina
- 2005 Whitehorse
- 2007 Calgary
- 2008 Victoria
- 2010 Winnipeg
- 2011 Banff
- 2012 Vancouver
- 2013 Saskatoon
- 2014 Calgary

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Board members in Calgary, October 2015

Risky Business:

Risk management in an increasingly risky world

What is risk? Risk is anything that affects your organization's ability to meet its objectives and preserve its reputation.

Identify risks. It is important to identify all risks that could potentially impact your organization. Risks generally fall under the following categories:

Strategic and governance risks.

- Absence of and failure to implement strategy
- Failure to have an appropriate governance structure

Reputational risks

- Privacy and social media
- Litigation

Compliance risks

- Non-compliance with laws and regulations

Information technology risks

- Data security and availability
- Mobile devices

External risks

- Economic conditions and volatility
- Natural disasters

Competition

Financial risks

- Liquidity, capital availability
- Theft/fraud

Operational and program risks

- Service quality.
- Capacity constraints, vendor dependency

Determine risk capacity, tolerance and appetite. Risk capacity is the outer limit of risk that an organization could undertake. Risk tolerance is the limit of risk set by the organization that it would not willingly exceed. Risk appetite is the level of risk that one is willing to accept.

Manage and monitor risk

There are various strategies that can be used in isolation or in combination to manage and monitor your risks, including:

- Avoiding any undertakings that could result in a risk occurring in the first place
- Sharing the risk (e.g. insurance)
- Developing policies and procedures to detect and reduce the severity of risks to an acceptable level.

Once a strategy has been developed for each risk you have identified, specific policies and procedures should be developed and specific individuals should be identified for the management of each of these risks.

Patti Walsh CA
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WESTERN CANADA



Whitehorse - September 14th to 16th

Registration

The conference cost is \$600 including meals and social events (\$650 after June 30th) Registration at: <http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2015/GFOAWCDelegates.asp>
First 100 people to register have their name in a draw.

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 GOFI091315

Tradeshaw

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

The Reception, September 13th at 7pm.

Join us at the MacBride Museum for a private experience of the natural and cultural history of Whitehorse and the Yukon. There will be drinks and light snacks as well as local entertainment and the chance to try your hand at gold-panning.



The Banquet, Tuesday September 15 at 7pm

Our banquet this year will be held at the Kwanlin Dün's Cultural Center situated on the banks of the Yukon River. This is a place to experience the Yukon, both in an authentic First Nations Longhouse and sitting outside around a fire pit on the River bank. There will be great Yukon food, a canoe full of beer provided by a local brewery, legendary entertainment, s'mores cooked outside and of course the sour toe cocktail! Not guaranteed of course, but if the conditions are right we may be able to see the Northern Lights. Cost is included in the delegate fee—guests are extra.

Skagway, Alaska, Sunday September 13th

There is a great opportunity to explore an extra bit of the north, if you arrive early for the conference! We have scheduled a bus to take a trip to Skagway, Alaska approx. 1.5 to 2 hours from Whitehorse. At a cost of \$60 per person, the bus would leave between 8 and 9am giving you several hours to explore Skagway and then return in time for the Welcome Reception! Please email us at westcan.gfoa@shaw.ca to indicate your interest in going on this adventure.

