

Wendy Mesley to speak at Conference

Our Keynote Speaker, Wendy Mesley, one of Canada's most recognized and respected broadcast journalists, will share insight into that essential human quality: trust. With her customary humour and famously direct approach, she will discuss issues of trust - winning it, losing it and abusing it - which have come up consistently through her career with the consumer advocacy show "Marketplace" and now back with a regular segment on CBC's the National. For local government finance officers, trust is an integral part of our profession and underpins our integrity. In her presentation, Wendy will discuss opportunities for building and maintaining trust within a changing political environment.



ment. With more than 25 years in local government, she will share examples of cities who have implemented these practices including a performance management framework and zero based budgeting.

With recent changes for NGO's and First Nations communities, Tim Beauchamp, Director of the Public Sector Accounting Board of Canada, will outline the new rules for these communities and will provide an update on PSAB's technical aspects in local government. New this year, Tim will hold a special introductory session to PSAB to spark the interest of new finance officers.



Coming from Chicago, Anne Kinney, Director of GFOA's Research & Consulting, will provide an update on the latest Best Practices in Financial Manage-

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Changing Views on US Based Information Storage

As most know, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FIPPA) legislation governs protection of information, especially as served up in “the cloud”. Municipalities pay close attention to the physical location of the servers, the common rationale being “privacy legislation reasons”, especially the U.S. PATRIOT (Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) Act.

Privacy legislation is Provincial, however the legislators and regulators keep abreast of developments in other jurisdictions. In Ontario the Privacy Commissioner reviewed concerns raised in the Legislature with respect to a Licensing Automation System of the Ministry of Natural Resources. In June 2012 the Privacy Investigative Report PC12-39 addressed, among other things, protection of personal information stored in the cloud on US based servers.

The report noted that the apparently new powers in the PATRIOT Act were actually not really all that new in reality and that similar powers are in place in Canada available to CSIS. CSIS and US agencies co-operate closely so, according to the report, nothing changed with respect to the reality of protection with the advent of the PATRIOT Act. The report focused more on operational issues and what reasonable steps the agency had taken to protect privacy and security of records in their control.

The conclusion was that the system was protecting information within the intent of Ontario’s privacy legislation, and this message was delivered in a very clear and

unambiguous manner. In one notable passage specific reference was made that PATRIOT Act concerns are “overblown” to the extent that they are harmful and overshadow more important considerations of responsibility and good governance.

This report is very forthright, and contrary to the view that US based services are inherently infeasible. Some Ontario municipalities are actively revising their IT procurement policies accordingly. Is it time to revisit yours?



Ron Begg
Chief Operating Officer
Stardyne Technologies Inc.



Dates to Remember:

GFOA BC
Whistler, BC
May 29-31, 2013

International GFOA
San Francisco, CA
June 2-5, 2013

Western Canada GFOA
Saskatoon, SK
September 18-20, 2013

Saskatchewan GFOA Annual Meeting

The Government Finance Officers Association of Saskatchewan will be holding its annual meeting in Saskatoon starting September 16th in the afternoon and continuing into September 17th. Our conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel (1-800-333-3333) and a block of rooms are being reserved for the conference until August 16, 2013. Book early and plan to stay for the Government Finance Officers’ Association of Western Canada conference, also being held in Saskatoon and at the Radisson from September 18 – 20th. Topics for discussion at the Sask. GFOA are still evolving, but will include a presentation from the Saskatchewan Municipal Board on Debt, a local report from our representative to the Committee on Canadian Issues, and other round table discussions. As well, the election of a new executive will also be considered. Members are encouraged to submit their suggestion for agenda items to Breanne Howden (Secretary) at bhowden@regina.ca or Brian Parschauer (President) at bparschauer@citypa.com. Deadline for agenda suggestions is August 30, 2013.

WESTERN CANADA



President's Message

The last time Saskatchewan hosted the GFOA of Western Canada Conference was in Regina in 2005. I can't believe that eight years have passed so quickly! Since then the economy here has boomed and Saskatchewan has moved into the ranks of the "have" provinces (a net contributor to inter-provincial equalization payments). We are looking forward to hosting this conference in 2013 for two reasons:

Firstly, we want to take the opportunity to showcase our achievements to finance officers in the rest of Western Canada, who may still have an outdated view of our province.

Secondly, we see this as a great opportunity to bring some first rate professional development to the finance officers in municipalities, universities, school and hospitals (the so called MUSH sector) who do not often get to attend this sort of quality conference without leaving home.

We promise you great technical sessions, exciting social events and an opportunity for you to update your opinion of our great province.

Lorrie Schmalenberg, CGA
Manager, Corporate Accounting
Corporate Services

2013 Conference Session previews

This year's conference will offer a variety of diverse sessions that will spark your interest, promote best practices and provide opportunities for networking with your colleagues.

Some highlights include:

Defining a Common Language for Asset Management

Have you ever wondered about all that jargon when discussing assets, classifications and system requirements to manage your inventory? This session will help you wade through the minutia and determine what is necessary for effective asset management that will enable periodic informative reporting and encourage discussions with all stakeholders.

Opportunities for Revenue Generation

In local government, finance officers strive each year to build a budget that minimizes

expenses and maximizes revenues yet opportunities for revenues seem to be challenging within the political environment. This session will offer a stimulating discussion on new revenue sources along with reviewing the standard ones.

Business Continuity when an Emergency happens - are you ready?

Recent world events such as the earthquake in Japan and closer to home such as the Lesser Slave Lake wildfires in Alberta have made many organizations stop to think about how well they are prepared to respond to significant disruptions. This session will provide an overview of business continuity, practical guidance for developing an effective program and how to build capacity that will allow your team to respond when required.

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Other 2013 Sessions:

PSAB Technical Update
Economic Update
Small Communities Forum
Budget Officer Forum
GFOA without Borders
Update from CCI

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

Registration is now open at :

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

At a cost of \$600 per delegate. Register early. The first 120 people to register will have their names entered in the early bird prize draw.

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.



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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Is Saskatoon 2013 an opportunity for you?