



Canadian Association of Government Finance Officers

2020 NATIONAL Conference

GOING VIRTUAL!

SEPT 14 - 17, 2020

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# 2020 NATIONAL Conference: SEPT 14 - 17th

## Leading through Adversity

Welcome to our re-imagined virtual 2020 National Conference. We have been holding conferences since the 1970's, originally under the banner of GFOA of Western Canada. While we have gotten bigger and better than those early days, so the world is more challenging, technology more complex and our delegates more demanding. Similar challenges face our members in their organization.

As financial officers, we like to plan and budget for the future. We try to anticipate future events and project future trends. However, things don't always go the way we want them to. Other forces are at play. Political changes, economic factors, and even natural disasters and pandemics can have a huge impact on our plans. Adversity is defined as a difficult or unfavourable situation or event. We can manage adversity and mitigate its impact; but the real challenge is to lead the people in our organization through the situation and emerge stronger on the other side. Our 2020 conference will explore this challenge.

We are a professional development conference providing the highest quality PD for Finance Officers working in the public sector. We have the head of PSAB delivering their annual update, leaders in the fields of budgeting, financial reporting, asset management and Information Technology will keep you informed about the latest developments in their fields. But real professional development is more than just being able to report 17 verifiable hours to your professional association. Even at a virtual conference, you will get to debate hot-topic issues with your peers and participate in interactive discussion Forums that will ensure you can apply what you learned and return of the being more effective in your work.

Along with expanding our technical skills and networking with our colleagues, our conference is also an opportunity to have some fun! Plans are in place to offer a virtual social networking event on Sunday, September 13th. More details will be available soon but be prepared to learn a new skill pandemic style!



### Social Highlight: Free Cooking Lesson from Mary Berg!



Mary Berg is host of Mary's Kitchen Crush on CTV and bestselling cookbook author of Mary's Kitchen Crush: Effortless Recipes for Every Occasion. She also won MasterChef Canada season 3 and has appeared on numerous morning shows across Canada. Mary will be hosting a free 1-hour virtual cooking class on Sunday, September 13th as part of the 2020 CAGFO National Conference. Recipes will be provided in advance so you can follow along! Register for the conference now to participate!

### Social Highlight: Free Cocktail Demo from Erick Rosende!



Erick Rosende is a Master Mixologist and Sommelier with 20 years of bartending and managing experience throughout USA, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Chile and of course Canada. He is known as one of the all time Pro bartenders known for entertaining celebrities and VIPs. Erick will be closing out the conference with a free 1-hr demo on Thursday, September 17th. Recipes will be provided in advance so you can follow along! Register for the conference now to participate!

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# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Sunday, September 13th

7:00pm - 8:00pm EST

Mary Berg, host of Mary's Kitchen Crush on CTV, bestselling cookbook author of Mary's Kitchen Crush: Effortless Recipes for Every Occasion, winner of MasterChef Canada season 3, is hosting a free 1-hour virtual cooking class. Recipes will be provided in advance so you and your families can follow along from the comfort of your own kitchen!



A well drafted and enforceable written employment contract can serve to reduce liability, give the employer control and certainty the terms and conditions of the employment relationship and help to avoid unnecessary disputes. We will discuss key provisions, proper implementation and some of the pitfalls. It will be a useful intro to or helpful refresher on employment contracts.

### 2:00pm - 2:45pm Breakout Sessions:

3. How to Deal with Reduced Funding  
*TBC*

4. The Battle of the Budget

*David Edgar, CDN National Public Sector leader, Aon*

*Katie Sabo, US Managing Director of Aon's State and Local Leader, Aon*

Governmental entities around the globe are facing extraordinary demands in the face of volatility driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. To combat this, governments at all levels are forced to make difficult choices with respect to the delivery of ongoing services and investments in the face of extreme budget shortfalls. At the same our elected officials continue to face challenges that existed pre-pandemic, including climate change and extreme weather, cyber threats and vulnerability, rising healthcare costs, an aging workforce and demands on infrastructure.

Join us for a discussion focused exclusively on the unique fiscal risks governments face and our innovative approach to create another "tool in the toolbox."

### 3:00pm - 3:45pm Breakout Sessions:

5. Asset Management Forum

*Jude Pillainayagam, Asset Management Engineer, City of Coquitlam*

6. Library Forum

*Elrose Klause, Controller and Director, Financial Services, Calgary Public Library (retired)*

This Forum is an opportunity for Library Finance officers to discuss any issues of common interest. Among this year's discussions will be the impact of COVID-19 on library services including functioning on a remote basis.

## Monday, September 14th

11:30am - 3:45pm EST

11:30am - 12:00pm

Conference Welcome & Opening

12:00pm - 12:45pm

Learnings on Adversity from COVID 19: A Panel Discussion

*Moderator: Jamie Black, President, F.H. Black & Company Incorporated*

### 1:00pm - 1:45pm Breakout Sessions:

1. Cyber Threats – Real Life Examples from the Field

*Drew Buhr, Lead, National Cyber Security Assessments, MNP*

*Wendy Gnenz, Senior Manager, Technology Consulting Practice, MNP*

Join Drew Buhr and Wendy Gnenz on a tour of the Cyber World in Canada. Drew's experience as a senior leader in MNP's Cybersecurity area has allowed him to experience countless cyber situations alongside his clients. Not only will he talk about how those situations arose but he will also provide practical examples on how you can help to guard against similar situations. Drew will be joined by Wendy from the Technology Consulting practice within MNP. Her experience as a past CIO combined with her CPA designation and financial background will allow her to offer unique insights into how to prepare for cyber threats and how to prioritize against competing initiatives.

2. Employment Contracts

*Andrew Carricato, Lawyer, Lidstone and Company Barristers & Solicitors*

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# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 15th

11:30am - 3:45pm EST

11:30am - 12:00pm

Welcome - Special Guests

12:00pm - 12:45pm

PBO and Lessons for Municipalities

*Kevin Page, Founding President and CEO, Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy at the University of Ottawa*

Municipalities were on the front lines in dealing with the COVID19 health and economic crisis. They will be on the front lines in managing the big policy transitions in a post COVID19 – to a more resilient, sustainable and fair socio-economic environment. Over the past decade, independent fiscal institutions like the PBO in Canada have demonstrated the importance of transparent and authoritative financial information in shaping debate and oversight. Municipalities will need access to this type of capacity so they influence policy discussion with the federal and provincial governments in the years ahead.

1:00pm - 1:45pm Breakout Sessions:

7. Recognizing and Dealing with Economic Shifts

*Tim Duhamel, Founder and President, Bloom Centre for Municipal Education*

Municipalities today face great challenges as global, national, and local economies are more turbulent than ever in today's complex world. Learning to recognize economic shifts that are on the horizon and how they impact your municipality is critical to municipal financial sustainability. Join us for this energized session on municipal economics.

8. Giving Ethics A Voice

*Greg Draper, Senior Partner and Forensics Services team member, MNP*

Compliance and risk management expectations of government organizations continue to grow. No longer limited to financial risks, issues such as workplace safety matters, bullying and harassment, and conflicts of interest must be managed. A well-designed and properly-implemented ethics reporting line can empower your best employees to protect your organization.

9. Financing Edmonton's 50 Year Plan: An Example of Forward Thinking

*Craig S. Binning, Partner, Hemson Consulting Ltd.*

The City of Edmonton's new City Plan will help to guide growth to an ultimate population of 2 million. As part of this work, Hemson Consulting Ltd. undertook a long-term financial assessment of various growth scenarios to build an understanding of the relative capital and operating cost impacts of various forms of growth. This session will include a presentation and panel discussion by Hemson along with representatives from the Edmonton's City Plan team and finance department.

2:00pm - 2:45pm Breakout Sessions:

10. Robots in the Finance Department: Freedom from Drudgery

*Jamie Black, President, F.H. Black & Company Incorporated*

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is being used today to reduce finance department workload/cost and increase productivity. This presentation will examine the processes, benefits, and challenges of implementing RPA for the finance department. To demonstrate the immediate opportunity for finance improvement, the presenters will analyse the AP entry process and assemble a functioning robot to automate this task.

This presentation will assist delegates in preparing for imminent changes that will impact finance departments. It will provide delegates with specific tools and techniques to increase the productivity in their finance department by automating recurring, time-consuming tasks.

11. Asset Management

*TBC*

3:00pm - 3:45pm Breakout Sessions:

12. Budget Officers Forum

*Facilitator: Jason Turnbull, Senior Financial Business Partner, City of Saskatoon*

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# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Tuesday, September 15th (cont'd)

### 13. Police Finance Forum

*Facilitator: Mark Wilson, Comptroller, New Westminster Police Department (NWPD)*

Attendees of the Police Forum will be provided a chance to share opportunities and challenges facing all our policing agencies. Topics we will explore include the impacts of the growing “defund the police” movement, and what can be done to mitigate the threat from ransomware attacks.

### 16. Innovations to Lower Costs: Rocky Mountain House Case Study

*Franco (Frank) Saccucci, Faculty member, MacEwan University*

*Brenda Christie, Finance Director (Recently Retired), Rocky Mountain House*

This case study on the municipality of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta illustrates how an authentic and empathetic leadership style “nurtured” a healthy, empowering and committed culture within the finance department. The by-product of such being employee “feed” suggestions on system processes and structure improvement. The presentation will also illustrate: Intended vs. actual outcomes; Strategies used to overcome the stumbling blocks; How the right Management, Opportunity and People (MOP Principle) needed to be in sync.

## Wednesday, September 16th

11:30am - 3:45pm EST

11:30am - 12:00pm

2020 CAGFO Annual General Meeting

12:00pm - 12:45pm

Update from the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB)  
*Mike Puskaric, Director, Public Sector Accounting Standards, Public Sector Accounting Board*

The Annual PSAB update is one of the mainstays of our conference. The session will provide up-to-date information keeping you current with the current with the recent releases of PSAB and the coming proposals. In the end, participants should have the knowledge and skills they need to assess new standards and be aware of emerging issues in public sector financial reporting.

1:00pm - 1:45pm Breakout Sessions:

### 14. Spend Analysis, Optimization in the Face of Budget Constraints

*Carlie Persson, Risk and Assurance, PwC Canada*

### 15. Leadership in Difficult Times

*Tim Duhamel, Founder and President, Bloom Centre for Municipal Education*

Leadership is critical to the success of any municipality and is only leveraged to its true potential when we realize “leadership is for everyone”. Challenging times require exemplary leadership from top to bottom in modern organizations. Having a shared understanding of leadership throughout the organization powers success in difficult times.

2:00pm - 2:45pm Breakout Sessions:

17. TBD

### 18. PSAB 101

*Mike Puskaric, Director, Public Sector Accounting Standards, Public Sector Accounting Board*

Are you a new user of the PSAB Handbook? Is your organization or First Nations now required to report under Public Sector standards. This session will provide an overview of the major changes you are likely to face and offer an opportunity to get your questions answered.

3:00pm - 3:45pm Breakout Sessions:

### 19. Public Sector Accounting Board Forum

*Facilitator: Lorrie Schmallerberg, Manager, Public Accounting & Reporting, City of Regina*

This forum is a chance for practitioners to discuss issues of common interest. Items arising from the annual PSAB update can be discussed in more detail as PSAB staff will be present Also representatives of the group that has been getting together online to discuss exposure drafts will be present and encouraging more participation.

### 20. CCI Best Practices

TBC

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# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 17th

11:30am - 3:45pm EST

11:30am - 12:00pm

TBD

12:00pm - 1:00pm

An Economic Outlook

*James Marple, Senior Economist and Director with TD Bank Group*

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Rapporteur on the Professional Development Conference

*Enid Slack, Director, Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG), Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto*

2:00pm - 2:45pm

Learning from the Conference: A Panel Discussion

3:00pm - 4:00pm EST



Erick Rosende, Director/Corporate trainer, ISG Sommelier/WSET Spirits Educator with Ultimate Bartending. Erick is a Master Mixologist and Sommelier with 20 years of bartending and managing experience throughout USA, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Chile and of course Canada. He is known as one of the all time Pro bartenders, and is now sharing his vast knowledge and experience with the new great upcoming bartenders in Canada. When Erick is not instructing at Ultimate Bartending School you can find him managing at Edmonton Event Centre, Empire Ballroom, The Treasury, Underground Sound and many other locations for Bar Source Canada, entertaining celebrities and VIPs. Erick will be closing out the conference with a free 1-hr demo. Recipes will be provided in advance so you can follow along!

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# key speaker bios



## Kevin Page

Kevin Page, Canadian economist, has been confirmed to present at the 2020 CAGFO Conference taking place in Edmonton, AB Sept 16 – 18, 2020. Mr. Page was the first ever Parliamentary Budget Officer for Canada appointed to the position on March 25, 2008 and his term was completed on March 22, 2013. He now teaches at the University of Ottawa. In 2013, Page was named as the Jean-Luc Pepin Research Chair on Canadian Government. In 2016, Page became the head of the newly created Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD), a think tank with a focus on public finance and policy at the University of Ottawa. Stay tuned for more details on his CAGFO presentation!

## Enid Slack

Enid Slack is the Director of the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG) at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. IMFG focuses exclusively on the fiscal health and governance challenges faced by large cities and city-regions. Enid has written extensively on property taxes, municipal fiscal health, intergovernmental transfers, development charges, financing municipal infrastructure, metropolitan governance, and municipal boundary restructuring. Recent co-edited books include Financing Infrastructure: Who Should Pay and Is Your City Healthy? Measuring Urban Fiscal Health. Enid consults on municipal finance and governance issues with governments and international agencies such as the World Bank, IMF, UN Habitat, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and International Growth Centre. She has consulted in Canada as well as Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, India, Jordan, Mongolia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. Enid is a member of the Board of Advisors of the International Property Tax Institute (IPTI). In 2012, she was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work on cities.



## James Marple

James Marple is a Senior Economist and Director with TD Bank Group. In his role, he leads a team of economists to provide economic analysis and forecasts to TD clients and stakeholders. The team delivers on a wide scope of research, covering the Canadian, U.S., and global economies. As a respected commentator, James travels across North America speaking on economic and financial trends and has been quoted by media outlets including the Wall Street Journal, Globe & Mail and the Associated Press. He is frequently interviewed on the radio and television. James received his Master of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Toronto in 2005 and his Bachelor of Arts (Honors) from the University of Alberta in 2004. In October 2018, he celebrated his eleven year anniversary with TD Bank Group.

## Michael Puskaric

Michael is the Director, Public Sector Accounting Standards for the Public Sector Accounting Board. His role is to be the champion for improving public sector accounting practices across Canada by sharing knowledge, encouraging collaboration and leading the development of standards. Michael has a broad base of experience based on 20 years working in public, private and not-for-profit sector organizations. He is a member of the special advisory committee to the Auditor General of Canada that provides advice and consultation on financial accounting and auditing matters. Michael is a Chartered Professional Accountant holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Schulich School of Business at York University in Toronto Canada.



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# key speaker bios



## Tim Duhamel

Tim Duhamel is the founder and president of Bloom Centre of Municipal Education. Tim is a municipal veteran whose municipal career has spanned over 22 years. Tim's passion is working with municipalities to better their situation, as well as creating educational material and conducting lectures for municipal professionals. He has lectured as far away as Kiev, Ukraine for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Tim is the lead creator of education material and course delivery for GFOA Alberta and is the leader of a thriving consulting practice.

## Greg Draper

Greg Draper, MBA, DIFA, FCPA, FCGA, CFF, CAMS, ICD.D, is a senior Partner and Forensics Services team member with MNP. Greg helps his clients manage their legal, financial and reputational risks related to fraud and other ethical breaches. He also proactively helps clients conduct anti-money laundering compliance reviews, fraud risk assessments and anti-corruption due diligence. Greg is recognized by the courts, the media and his peers as an expert in his field, with extensive experience conducting investigations and executing civil injunctions, including Anton Piller Orders. Before joining MNP, Greg served for 10 years in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, where he was a senior investigator of complex international financial crimes. Greg was the inaugural Chair of the Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta and served on the City of Calgary Audit Committee in addition to several other boards. Greg holds a Bachelor of Human Justice (BHJ) from the University of Regina, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Laurentian University and a graduate Diploma in Investigative and Forensic Accounting (DIFA) from the University of Toronto. He is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF), Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS), and Institute Certified Director (ICD.D).



## Jamie Black

Jamie Black is President of F.H. Black & Company Incorporated. For the last 20 years, he has consulted and trained finance officers, auditors & accountants in government, higher education, and corporations throughout Canada and the U.S. His work focuses on increasing efficiency & effectiveness through the implementation of technology & best practices to ensure that finance departments do more with less, do it better than it was done before and do it in less time.

## Katie Sabo

Katie is a managing director at Aon and is the State and Local lead within Aon's Global Public Sector Partnership practice group. In this role, Katie focuses on developing innovation financial and insurance solutions in partnership with state and local governments to fiscal risk to revenues and/or expenditures due to economic and/or natural disaster risks in order to promote recovery and resiliency. Prior to joining Aon in 2016, Katie spent 12 years working in different financial roles including directly in government using budgetary, legislative and financial solutions to reduce fiscal risk to general funds and taxpayers on issues such a long-term liabilities, infrastructure, healthcare and natural disasters.



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## how to register

### REGISTRATION

Early-Bird (deadline: midnight Friday, August 7, 2020)  
\$250.00

Single Registration  
\$350.00

Group  
i.e. three (3) or less registrations from the same organization)  
\$700.00

Organization  
(i.e. four (4) or more from the same organization - no limit!)  
\$1,200.00

#### TO REGISTER:

Click on the link below to register.

On the form, please complete Section 1 for the organization and individual delegates can be added in Section 2. The pricing will automatically adjust to the correct registration option based on the number of delegates entered.

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### VIRTUAL TRADE SHOW

Exhibitors will be provided with a virtual Trade Show space to market their products and services.

### FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

Lee Gould  
CAGFO Executive Director  
604-493-2017  
[lee@cagfo.ca](mailto:lee@cagfo.ca)

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