

Canadian Association of Government Finance Officers



CAGFO Announces 2022 Annual Conference! November 15 - 18, 2022 **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

We are pleased to announce the launch of the 2022 CAGFO Annual Conference "Value Beyond Numbers". This will be a virtual conference again and we invite you to attend your virtual conference of choice from November 15 - 18, 2022.

In the hopes of maximizing the virtual delivery format, CAGFO has confirmed a new dynamic platform (VFairs) that will facilitate networking and connections and offer a number of opportunities to explore for both delegates and sponsors/exhibitors!

We look forward to presenting a draft program to you in the coming weeks within our weekly e-broadcast and website. New speakers will be announced as confirmed.

As a sneak peek, in addition to popular recurring sessions such as the PSAB and Economic Updates, we are pleased to announce our Opening Keynote Speaker Ron Tite. Relevant, engaging, and interactive, Ron Tite exceeds expectations every time he takes the stage. Named one of the "Top 10 Creative Canadians" by Marketing Magazine, he's an award-



Ron Tite, Purpose-Driven Leadership and Marketing Expert, confirmed as Opening Keynote at 2022 CAGFO Conference

winning advertising writer and creative director. Addressing a variety of topics surrounding leadership, strategy, motivation, and creativity, Tite's presentations are not only informationpacked but also infused with his unique humour.

Registration rates are available <u>here</u>. Organization rates to maximize the value are available again this year. Mark your calendars...Registration will open soon!

UPCOMING FREE WEBINARS

GFOA Distinguished Budget Book Award Criteria Changes

Joy Richardson, Prinicipal Consultant, F.H. Black & Company Inc.

May 18, 2022 1:00pm ET - 2:00pm ET

Effective for budgets with a fiscal year beginning on January 1st, 2021 or later (July 1st, 2021 or later for schools), the GFOA has changed the criteria by which budget books are evaluated for the Distinguished Presentation Award.

Learn what has changed and how to ensure your organization receives the GFOA award this year and beyond.

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The Costing Mindset in Collective **Bargaining**

Charlie Francis, Government Finance Executive Consultant

James Orr, Director of Product May 25, 2022 1:00pm ET - 2:00pm ET

When it comes to labour negotiations, costing labour contracts is critical. The impacts of Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") provisions on current and future costs (including unfunded liabilities for items such as leave cash outs) are part of the conversation by elected officials in closed sessions. Providing accurate information enables better decision making for both short-term and long-term financial impacts.

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PSA Updates

PSAB's 2021-2022 Annual Report & 2022-2023 Annual Plan

In April, 2022, PSAB issued its <u>2021-2022 Annual Report</u>. The Annual Report provides a summary of the Board's 2021-2022 key activities and accomplishments. PSAB also recently released its <u>2022-2023 Annual Plan</u>, detailing how the Board will work with its stakeholders to deliver on the objectives of the <u>2022-2027 Strategic Plan in the upcoming year</u>.

PSAB's 2022 - 2027 Strategic Plan

After extensive consultation with stakeholders, PSAB approved its 2022 – 2027 Strategic Plan in March 2022. This document sets out the Board's broad, strategic objectives that will guide its activities over the next five years. Key strategies included in its 2022 – 2027 Strategic Plan include: developing relevant and high-quality accounting standards; enhancing relationships with stakeholders and other standard setters; and supporting forward-looking accounting and reporting initiatives, such as sustainability.

PSAB also released a <u>Feedback Statement</u> which outlines how the Board responded to key feedback received as part of the consultation process, including how the Board developed and approved its 2022 – 2027 Strategic Plan.

Implementation plans to execute PSAB's strategies will be outlined in future Annual Plans.

PSAB's Public Sector Accounting Discussion



Group Meeting – May 12th:

The Public Sector Account Discussion Group held its most recent meeting on May 12th with a full agenda of interesting topics scheduled for discussion.

- The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) Consultation Paper on Sustainability Reporting:
- Climate-related Issues: Considerations under Public Sector Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Statements of Recommended Practice (SORPs):
- General Application Standards: Effective Dates and Application

Meetings are recorded and accessible to registrants for a period of 8 weeks following the meeting date. Should you wish to gain access to view the recording, please contact us.

For information on our past meeting discussions, read our meeting reports.

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Public Sector & Economic Recovery: The Role of Internal Audit Post Pandemic Carlie Persson, Partner, Risk and Assurance, PwC Canada Ross Wilson, Director Internal Audit, Risk Assurance Services, PwC Canada Date: June 15, 2022 Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm EST

The presentation is specifically targeted at public sector entities, recognizing that economic recovery strategies will largely be delivered via government programs. Organizational preparedness through economic scenario planning, funding scenario planning, and mandate delivery model evaluations will be tools used in evaluating potential tactics. This discussion will focus on internal audit's value creation role by providing real-time assurance. Assurance on the impacts of management's plans for changes including assessing scenario planning, transformational assurance during organizational change to the assessment of benefits realization, demonstrate how Internal Audit can deliver value by supporting the leadership agenda and economic recovery initiatives in a changed world.

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Government Financial Leaders Turning to Tech to Fight Fraud



Fraud rates throughout the world have been reaching record highs in recent years, spurred largely by the chaotic conditions brought on by the global pandemic. A recent global PriceWaterhouseCoopers survey found 47 percent of the 5,000 companies they surveyed in 2020 had experienced an instance of fraud within the previous 24 months. Of that group, the average number of occurrences was six.

Other research has also shed light on the rising fraud threat. CaseWare's 2022 State of Internal Audit Trends Report found more than 70 percent of the 3,000 respondents said the global pandemic had caused an increase in fraud threats in their organizations, while only 22 percent said the level of fraud has remained about the same.

In such unsettled times, it is important for government financial officers to ensure their departments and offices are prepared to combat this potentially catastrophic danger.

Inside and Outside Threats

Fraudulent actions can be categorized as either internal (actions committed by government employees or contractors) or external (those committed by outside parties).

Common external threats include data breaches, email account compromises, malware and phishing scams. The three main categories of internal fraud are corruption, asset misappropriation and financial statement fraud. Common examples of these internal crimes,

according to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, include employees misusing their influence in transactions for their personal benefit; workers accepting bribes; and employees providing sensitive information to outside parties for gain.

Government departments are, unfortunately, susceptible to all of these forms of nefarious and harmful activities. Yet, findings from the CaseWare survey revealed that almost one in three organizations do not have a suitable fraud prevention and response plan in place. For 31 percent, such a plan was in development, while four percent said they do not have one and are not actively developing one.

This is a somewhat alarming result in view of the aforementioned rising rates of fraud during these pandemic-affected times.

The Analytics Answer

A related question revealed just how much analytics software technologies can help in the fight against fraud. The survey found that 60 percent of those surveyed were using analytics software to help mitigate the risk of fraud. Of that group, a whopping 85 percent said these tools were helpful to some degree — 39 percent said they were "extremely helpful" and 47 percent described them as "somewhat helpful."

One respondent commented: "With the data analysis tool, fraud detection has been increased and we use fewer physical resources."

As political and financial instabilities continue to be unfortunate realities as we move deeper into the 2020s, it becomes that much more imperative

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for governments to safeguard their data as much as possible. Adopting advanced technologies, such as <u>CaseWare IDEA</u> data analysis software, is one of the surest ways public-sector departments can ensure the ever-present fraud threat is effectively thwarted.

The 3 Secrets of
Simplified Government
Financial Reporting

ACCESS THE E-BOOK NOW

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PARTNERS







UPCOMING FREE WEBINARS

Assessing & Selecting Reporting Automation Solutions for Government Finance Jamie Black, President, F.H. Black & Company Inc.

August 3, 2022 1:00pm ET – 2:00pm ET

Manually preparing government financial reports is extremely time-consuming and error-prone. Most organizations recognize the need for advanced solutions in order to keep pace with the ever-shifting landscape of government standards. As the number of solutions that claim to support and enhance the preparation of the PSAB/Annual Financial Statements and other financial reports increases, so does the difficultly for finance professionals to choose between them. While many leading solutions have made giant strides in improving report preparation through automation, collaboration, and enhanced business processes, many others can best be described as 'lipstick on a pig.' These solutions make the same claims, but fail to deliver. This webinar will run through a checklist of 8 of the most important criteria to consider when selecting a financial reporting automation solution for your organization.

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Value Beyond Numbers

The 2022 Virtual Conference of Choice!

CAGFO Annual Conference November 15 - 18, 2022 MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Why You Should Register For This Event...

- Enjoy one of a kind live experience in VFairs
- Click and meet! Networking has never been that easy before
 - Be an early adopter of the changing world
 - Scroll through different solution booths
- Connect and ask questions to experts in a 1-1 or collaborative environment
- A wide variety of expert speakers and PD content relevant to your profession
 - Learn best practices and network with your peers!

This will be a Virtual
Conference and you may be
surprised by that.
Our decision is based on:

Recognition that there are municipalities who are restricting staff travel for the balance of 2022

Some individuals are expressing continued concern over covid

This offers an opportunity for more members from across Canada to attend

We are utilizing a new dynamic platform that both delegates, sponsors and exhibitors will enjoy

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS

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https://cagfo.ca/



CAGFO PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CAGFO has been keeping busy these last few months! The **CAGFO Annual Conference** has been confirmed for November 15 – 18, 2022. Some may be surprised at our choice to continue with a virtual delivery format but this decision was based on a number of factors including:

- Recognition that there are municipalities who are restricting staff travel for the balance of 2022
- Some individuals are expressing continued concern over covid
- This offers an opportunity for more members from across Canada to attend

We will also be utilizing a new dynamic platform (VFairs) that both delegates and sponsors/exhibitors will enjoy.

So mark your calendars and stay tuned for Keynote & Program details - registration will open soon!

If you can't wait for the conference, CAGFO has also developed a wide variety of CPD seminars. If you require Ethics hours specifically, we have two

upcoming seminars that would support your needs:

1. Ethics and Conflict of Interest

June 7, 2022 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM ET CPD hours: 1



2. Ethical Leadership in an Age of AI

Wednesday, June 29, 2022 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET

CPD hours: 4

More information on all our seminars and free webinars can be found <u>here</u>.

We look forward to seeing you at our 2022 Conference in November!

We always want to hear from our members so if you have any feedback, questions, or concerns, please send them to office@cagfo.ca. We always want to serve our members better.

Lorrie Schmalenberg, CAGFO President

SPONSORSHIP & ADVERTISING RATE CARD

Connect with thousands of government financial officers across Canada!

The Canadian Association of Government Finance Officers (CAGFO), is one of the oldest organizations representing thousands of government finance officers across Canada. CAGFO is a professional association representing Federal, Provincial, Municipal, First Nations, Inuit and Metis finance officers and teams.

The 2022 Conference Sponsorship Opportunities will be available soon but we are also pleased to offer a new Sponsorship and Advertising Rate Card for 2022 which includes website promotion and webinar options among many others.

Opportunities include exposure on the CAGFO website, email



campaigns, quarterly newsletters, webinars, seminars and of course- the 2022 Conference Sponsorship opportunities will be available soon!

Opportunities start at only \$175! We can also build to suit for a mutual win-win opportunity.

Please <u>click here</u> to view the full rate card or contact Anne Stacey at <u>office@cagfo.ca</u>.



CAGFO PD OPPORTUNUTIES

Ethics and Conflict of Interest

Jill Inget, Director of Corporate Ethics, BC
Public Service Agency
June 7, 2022
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM ET CPD hours: 1
\$115 plus tax Members
\$140 plus tax Non-members



All employees have a life outside of work. Sometimes, personal lives and interests intersect with work and employees may not even be aware of it! It is this intersection that is considered to be a conflict of interest. Without guidance and direction for employees, these conflicts can lead to a breach of conduct, mistrust, or even termination of employment. This session will look at how to develop and communicate clear expectations for all employees and how to prevent conflicts of interest from arising.

Register Here

Pivot Tables for Accountants

\$375 plus tax Non-members

Dave Greene CPB, MCSE, MCT, Instructor, K2E Canada Inc.
June 9, 2022
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET CPD hours: 4
\$315 plus tax Members



With a little information, guidance, and demonstration from the instructor, you will be ready to begin using PivotTables to accomplish routine analysis and reporting. This seminar will begin with basic PivotTables and progress to advanced PivotTable topics. Major Topics include 1. Drag-and-drop pivoting, group and ungrouping, and drilling down to underlying details; 2. Creating PivotTables from multiple ranges; 3. Linking PivotTables to external database and financial accounting systems

Register Here

Budgeting and Forecasting

Dave Greene CPB, MCSE, MCT, Instructor, K2E Canada Inc.
June 16 & 17, 2022
11:00 AM – 3:30 PM ET CPD hours: 7
\$390 plus tax Members
\$470 plus tax Non-members



Are your budgeting and forecasting processes working as well for you as they should? Probably not, as many organizations report that budgeting and forecasting activities consume tremendous amounts of time and yield only marginal benefits. In this course, you will learn how to achieve a greater return on your budgeting and forecasting activities by taking advantage of various tools and techniques available in today's market. Major Topics include: 1. Creating and securing budget workbooks and worksheets; 2. Obtaining budget data and collaborating with others; 3. Forecasting tools and techniques

Register Here

Ethical Leadership in an Age of Al Laura Friedrich, MSc, CIA, FCPA, FCGA June 29, 2022 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET CPD hours: 4 \$315 plus tax Members

\$375 plus tax Non-members



As the use of AI and related technologies continues to grow, organizations need to ensure that they consider and address the ethical implications and obligations that result from these disruptive technologies. This interactive session will illustrate some of the recent advancements in AI and some of the expectations for the future. We'll review key elements of frameworks being developed by organizations to design trust into the AI environment, and see how the principles in these frameworks relate to our obligations as professional accountants. Participants will also evaluate a variety of scenarios and explore the implications of AI technologies on our role as ethical leaders.

Register Here





ACCA is not affiliated with any Chartered Accountant (CA) organization or Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) organization

Gain practical and broad-based knowledge of public financial management and develop stronger and more relevant budgeting, financial reporting and financial management skills with ACCA's Certificate in Public Financial Management (Cert PFM).

Think Ahead

Volunteer with CAGFO! Learn, Network, and Collaborate...

CAGFO currently has the following Committees open to Membership:

Public Sector Accounting Standards

The purpose of the CAGFO PSA committee is to collaborate on emerging issues and new standards initiated by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) in order to have a voice in the future of our industry as well as ongoing discussions to share knowledge that will help us in implementing new (and existing) standards.

Asset Management

This committee dialogues around asset management issues and associated bodies/organizations to provide input and resources to membership. Details can be found here.

Newsletter

This committee writes, or solicits from others, articles/content relevant to the interest and advancement of our membership. Details can be found here.

Board of Directors

Each year the Board invites members from across Canada to consider nomination to the Board of Directors. Information and procedures for nominations will be made available to membership 90 days prior to the AGM each year.

Conference

Each year, the annual in-person conference needs many hands for the success of the event. Travel related expenses are not covered. Volunteers are needed for onsite registration/welcome, coordination and distribution of hand-outs, room hosts/monitors, and more. Information and procedures for sign-up will be made available to membership 90 days prior to the conference each year.

Please contact office@CAGFO.ca for more information on any of the opportunities mentioned above.



A Simple Way to Offer Your Citizens New Ways To Pay Property Taxes and Utility Bills

As Canadians continue to look for new ways to pay government services, demand for more payment choices increases, leaving municipalities searching for convenient solutions to meet this demand. If you're not prepared, vou're not only missing out on making it easier for your citizens to pay the money you are owed, but you are also not taking advantage of an opportunity to migrate your payment mix away from costly cheques to more cost effective alternative payments. And that means you're paying more overhead than needed.

Online solutions like PaySimply.ca allow your citizens to pay for the municipal services they receive with a variety of payment methods that suit every need. With PaySimply.ca your municipality would be able to receive verified payment from: all major credit cards, Interac e-Transfer, PayPal, and Alipay. And for citizens who prefer to pay with cash or debit, PaySimply.ca also has a pay-in-person payment option. Your citizens simply generate a QR code on PaySimply.ca and bring it with them to their local Canada Post to make a payment.

Best of all PaySimply.ca is completely free to your municipality. No initial set up charges or payment processing fees.

"Municipalities are already enabled to receive property tax and utility bill payments from citizens using online banking. Using the service, automatically payments can be made through PaySimply.ca. And the beauty is, there is no signup needed." says Aleema Seadath, Director of Payment Services at Payment Source, creators of PaySimply.ca. "This means that there is no payment processor or technical integration required-- it's simply a matter of just letting citizens know this service is available. That can be done simply by adding our link on your website."

Getting paid is another important step and PaySimply.ca has you covered. PaySimply.ca uses the municipality's existing online bill payment settlement process to send payments, there is no merchant account to set up and no new settlement process or reporting needed.

Simply place a link to <u>PaySimply</u>. <u>ca</u> on your payment municipality page and let your citizens know that this service is available for their convenience.

PaySimply.ca has already processed over \$150M in federal tax payments for the CRA both online and inperson. Visit PaySimply.ca today or contact us at paysimplyinfo@paymentsource.ca to learn how you can make sure your citizens know they have PaySimply.ca available as a payment option.

Partner Events

May 30- June 1, 2022 2022 CAMA Conference Regina, SK *in person*

Aug 14- 17, 2022 AMO 2022 Annual General Meeting and Conference Ottawa *in person*

Sept 12- 13, 2022 CPA Canada The ONE Conference Vancouver, BC (virtual)

Oct 16- 19, 2022 GFOA 2022 Conference "Engergizing the Furture" Calgary, AB *in person*

Nov 3- 4, 2022 CPA Canada Mastering Money Conference Toronto, ON (virtual)

Nov 15- 18, 2022 CAGFO Annual Conference "Value Beyond Numbers" Virtual

Nov 21-23, 2022 AMM 2022 Annual Fall Convention Winnipeg, MB *in person*

