

WESTERN CANADA GFOA NEWS



Winnipeg ready to host 2010 delegates

The local organizing committee in Winnipeg has been working for over a year preparing to host nearly 200 Western Canada Conference delegates in their great City in September.

The Annual Conference of the GFOA of Western Canada has been a great opportunity for Finance Officers across the country to get together for professional development and networking, for over 25 years. We are excited to be back in Winnipeg, Manitoba in September 2010 with a great program, fascinating speakers and wonderful social activities.

This conference will bring together leading experts on strategies to deploy and ways to respond to rising expectations of finance officers, including useful tools and leading practices. The program is being designed to appeal to finance professionals from large, small, provincial and local governments. The conference will include GFOA staples like PSAB and economic updates and will also profile emerging trends in performance measurement, asset management and procurement practices. Other learning opportunities and themes will include enterprise



risk management, service collaboration and financial governance models.

In addition to the learning opportunities, there will be some fabulous social events, including a reception at the Manitoba Museum on Wednesday evening and a great banquet at the historic Fort Garry Hotel on Thursday evening with live entertainment.

Conference Registration

September 15-17, 2010

Hotel Fort Garry, 222 Broadway

Winnipeg, MB

Online registration at: <https://plannersplus.merchantsecure.com/gfoa/registration.aspx>

Registration Fees - \$650.00

Includes breakfasts, lunches (on Sept. 15th and 16th) and nutritional breaks, opening reception on Wednesday evening, a ticket to the Thursday Banquet, plenary sessions, workshop sessions and delegate registration kit.

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President's Message

Greetings from the Board of GFOA Western Canada!

We are excited to be here again offering annual conferences to members in the Western Canadian Provinces after a year off in 2009.

Perhaps I should take a few minutes to explain to you how GFOA Western Canada is constituted. The association's purpose is to put on a conference each year in Western Canada. The membership consists of two members from each of the Western provinces, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Normally all members also serve on the board. People interested in serving should contact their local representative.

The board recently committed to a 3 year plan of providing conferences in Alberta in the fall of 2011, Vancouver in fall 2012 and the North West Territories in fall of 2013, as well as a commitment to stay in touch with our supporters and sponsors on an ongoing basis.

Keynote Speaker

We will kick-off the conference with The Honourable Reg Alcock, Harvard educated, Associate Dean of the I.H. Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba and former President of the Federal Treasury Board. Reg will share his perspective on the new realities of public sector finance.

Please check out our website at <http://www.westcangfoa.ca/index.htm> to get more detailed information on the program and the other speakers.



In 2010, of course, the Conference is in Winnipeg. The local organizing committee are doing a great job arranging a wonderful program and exciting social events for you all to attend in September.

The City of Winnipeg has always been a great supporter of GFOA Western Canada, members of the board, as well as to the Committee on Canadian Issues. They are ably supported this year by a contingent from the Province of Manitoba and other Manitoba members. I sincerely hope that you are able to come and see us in Winnipeg on September 15th to 17th..

Vivian Lund is Director of Administration for Wascana Centre in Regina, SK. She is currently the President of Western Canada GFOA.



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Manitoba Homecoming

2010 is Manitoba's 140th birthday and Manitoba Homecoming 2010 is a year-long celebration that will bring former and current Manitobans, visitors, friends and families together for fun and festivities! It showcases the province's activities from sporting, cultural and outdoor pursuits to academic, recreational and historic events. This special initiative will highlight the strengths of Manitoba's communities and people, showcase the many new provincial developments and share the strong spirit of Manitobans throughout our Provincial birthday celebrations.

Arrive a little early and see the Blue Bombers play Saskatchewan on the 12th or stay and



catch Mama Mia—the musical at Manitoba Centennial Concert Hall, from the 14th to the 19th. Make Winnipeg your destination of choice in 2010 and enjoy the western Canadian hospitality.



For what matters.

Deloitte.

Our Host Hotel: The Fort Garry



Check out www.fortgarryhotel.com

Our host hotel for the Conference is the Historical Fort Garry. One of Winnipeg's most prestigious landmarks, the Fort Garry has defined the Winnipeg skyline for over 90 years. The Hotel is conveniently located close to The Forts in the heart of downtown. This area is an inviting expanse of riverside property with lush green spaces, restaurants, shopping and entertainment.

**Book your room at the
GFOA Conference Room Rate:**

\$139 per night

Phone: 1-800-665-8088

Email: ftgarry@fortgarryhotel.com

Quote Booking Reference I087B7



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What You Always Wanted to Know About the GFOA Organizations in Western Canada

I am often asked how the different GFOA organizations relate to each other. I hope the explanation below helps a little:

GFOA of US and Canada (International)

This is a huge organization serving the whole of North America. They are headquartered in Chicago and have 17,300 members across North America. The annual conference, which was in Atlanta this year, annually attracts about 4,000 delegates. Any local government can join - membership fee is based on the size of your government. Benefits of membership include reduced fees at conferences and education sessions and a monthly magazine. You do not need to be a member of GFOA of the US and Canada to be a member of your provincial association.

Western Canada GFOA

This Association is actually older than the provincial associations, having been around more than 25 years. People sometimes get confused, as it does not have individual memberships. Each of the Western Canadian provinces and Territories appoint two members. Its sole purpose is to arrange an annual conference in Western Canada. The conference venue is chosen by the Board on a rotating basis and the host city actually produces the conference.

Provincial GFOA Associations in BC and Alberta

Alberta and BC have provincial associations incorporated under the provincial *Societies Acts*. They are governed entirely by local directors who members elect annually. They are "affiliated" with the GFOA of US and Canada; but are not strictly chapters, do not pay any dues to the International body and have no voting rights in or say in the way the International body is run. There are over 800 members in BC and over 600 in Alberta.

Committee on Canadian Issues

The last part of the puzzle is the CCI. It is a committee of the GFOA International and meets three times a year to discuss National Issues. While the provincial associations make recommendations on membership, appointments are made in Chicago. The committee has 21 members, drawn from eight of Canada's 10 provinces and also from the First Nations. The committee is currently chaired by Eric Sawyer, City of Calgary and John Martin,



Sam Weller, Executive Director of GFOA BC, has worked in local gov't finance since 1978. He is a CA and holds a Masters of Bus. Admin. from City University in Seattle, WA.

CONFERENCES OVER THE YEARS

1995 Regina	2001 Edmonton
1996 Calgary	2002 Vancouver
1997 Kelowna	2003 Regina
1998 White Horse	2005 White Horse
1999 Winnipeg	2007 Calgary
2000 Saskatoon	2008 Victoria

