



Government Finance Officers Association of Alberta

*Newsletter 2011 December
Issue*

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Season's Greetings from the Board of Directors

Rick Wojtkiw, President
Kelly Gibson, Vice President
Kathy Chan, Secretary
Darcy Ferguson, Treasurer
Dean Screpnek, Past President
Glen Jarbeau, Director at Large
Aleks Nelson, Director at Large
Lorraine Nyal, Director at Large
Barry Sawada, Director at Large
Candace Coombs, Executive Administrator



GFOA Conference:

Reshaping Alberta's Municipal Landscape

May 29-June 1, 2012

Deerfoot Inn & Casino

Calgary, Alberta

Important dates to
put in your 2012
Calendar

Watch for update announcements on details for the conference as they become available.

You can reserve your rooms now at the conference rate of \$159 (Deluxe King) and \$159 (Deluxe 2 Queen).

Simply call 1-888-875-4667 and use the Group Code GTJGFOA (Deerfoot Inn) or Group Code GOVFINASS694 (Service Plus Inns) to qualify for the group rate.





PSAB 101 and PSAB Update Webinars

GFOA, Alberta Chapter is please to present a repeat offering of the PSAB 101 and PSAB Update webinars.

Course size is limited to 30 attendees per session to ensure a quality experience for all attendees and also to offer more time for questions and answers at the end of each session.

Registration fees continue to be affordable for attendees. Please note that GST now applies in addition to the course fee.

Your completed registration forms should be e-mailed to Candace Coombs at candelah@xplornet.com as soon as possible. Session do fill up quickly so please contact Candace Coombs, Executive Administrator, to ensure there is still room in the session(s) of your choice.

PSAB 101 is a comprehensive course on the Public Sector Accounting Board's ("PSAB") financial reporting model for local governments intended for finance professionals. The course reviews the financial reporting model and the four required financial statements (Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Operations, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Net Debt/Financial Assets) with the objective of enhancing understanding of the statements to support more effective preparation and presentation of the statements. How to better connect the Annual Budget with the Financial Statements and options for additional disclosures for Accumulated Surplus are also discussed.

For complete information: [PSAB_Brochure.pdf](#)

To register: [PSAB_Webinar_Registration.doc](#)

PSAB Update is intended for finance professionals who prepare or present Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB") compliant financial statements and who have a basic understanding and appreciation of the PSAB financial reporting model (see course PSAB 101).

The course provides an update on key PSAB initiatives and future directions and includes the following:

- Overview of PSAB's current Work Plan.
- High-level review of new standards whose required implementation dates are not yet passed, including PS3510 Tax Revenue, PS3260 Contaminated Sites, PS3410 Government Transfers and PS3450 Financial Instruments.
- Review of PSAB currently issued documents for comment
- Review and status of other PSAB Projects, including the very important conceptual framework review project ("Concepts Underlying Financial Performance").
- Discussion on PSAB future directions and general Q&A.

For complete information: [PSAB_Update_Brochure.pdf](#)

To register: [PSAB_Update_Webinar_Registration.doc](#)



Memberships 2012

Here is the schedule of fees for Membership Rates in effect for 2012 as approved by the membership at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. The membership drive will soon be underway. With the simplified renewal process for memberships on the website, those designated as the "Primary Contact" in your municipality or organization will receive notification of your current GFOA members soon.

Primary Contacts are asked to ensure they remember their passwords for the website, as your passwords are required to access your data! Please email Candace Coombs at candelah@xplornet.com to have your password reset, if necessary!



FEE SCHEDULE

The membership fee structure of the Alberta Chapter of the GFOA is established with a number of objectives in mind.

- 1) Fees should encourage finance professionals from all sizes of local governments to join and remain as members.
- 2) The fee structure should encourage maximizing membership. Fees should cover certain administrative cost and contain a formula to allow for annual fee adjustments
- 3) Fees will ensure priority access to GFOA Alberta Conferences, education and training courses.
- 4) Fees should be favourably compared to other competing organizations.

2012 Membership Fees for the Alberta Chapter of the GFOA are as follows:

Active Members:

Population	Base Fee			Fee for Additional Members	Maximum Membership Fee per Organization
	Per member	Number Included	Minimum Membership Base Fee		
1	2,000	\$28	1	\$28	\$112
2,001	10,000	\$56	1	\$46	\$194
10,001	50,000	\$70	3	\$60	\$510
50,001	150,000	\$80	4	\$70	\$740
150,001	2,000,000	\$94	6	\$84	\$1,735

Example:

Using New Sampleford as an example, the fees for this organization would be as follows:

New Sampleford has a population of 50,650 and would like to purchase memberships for 14 of their Finance staff. Four members would be included in the base fee of \$320. The next 6 members would pay \$70 per member which would be an additional \$420 (6 x \$70) bringing the total membership fee to the maximum of \$740 (\$320 + \$420). The remaining 4 members would be included at no additional cost to the organization.

If New Sampleford only wanted to register 3 members, the fee would be \$320.

Associate Members:

AUMA / AAMD&C	\$100	Per Person
Accounting Firms	\$100	Per Person
Other	\$100	Per Person

Associate Member - any person not eligible for active membership who is interested in the principles and practices of governmental finance and who subscribes to the purposes of the Association.

Voting Active Members:

Federal Government	\$100	Per Person
Provincial Government	\$100	Per Person
Alberta Municipal Affairs	\$70	Per Person

Active Member - includes any person employed in the public sector in the province who has governmental accounting or financial responsibility, regardless of their title. The public sector is defined as including:

- local government
- provincial government
- federal government
- public agencies affiliated with local government

Non-voting Active Member:

Out of Province	\$100	Per Person
Retirees from Local Government	\$25	Shielded from Revenue Increases
Students Interested in Local Government	\$25	Shielded from Revenue Increases until student status is complete
Interns of Municipalities	\$0	Fees included with Municipality

Non-voting Active Member - includes any person employed in the public sector (not in the province) who has governmental accounting or financial responsibility, regardless of their title. The public sector is defined as including:

- local government
- provincial government
- federal government
- public agencies affiliated with local government

Late Fees:

- All membership fees are for the calendar year and are due prior to January 31 of that year.

A flat late fee of \$5.00 per member will be assessed for members registering after January 31

New Members:

- The membership fee for new GFOA members will depend on when the application is made for membership.
 - If the membership request is before the annual conference date, a full membership fee will be assessed.
 - If the membership request is after the annual conference, the membership fee will be waived.
 - In both cases, members will be added to the membership list and renewal instructions will be sent in the following year at the full membership fee level.

GST:

GST will be added to all membership fees.

Honorary Memberships:

The Board may use its discretion to provide honorary memberships on an annual basis.

Definitions:

Member in Good Standing - a person who has paid his/her current year membership fee prior to being involved in an Association vote, decision, or activity; except as provided for under Bylaw Articles No. 6 and No. 7 hereinafter.



CMA Alberta
Accelerate your career with a CMA designation

Certified Management Accountants are strategic financial management professionals with the knowledge to provide leadership, innovation and an integrating perspective to organizational decision-making. For professionals in government finance, these highly-sought skills can play an integral role in career growth and success.

Learn more about the CMA designation from the comfort of your own desk by attending a CMA Alberta online information session. Login information will be e-mailed to you one day prior to the information session.

To RSVP, contact Brett at bnoble@cma-alberta.com or 403.231.8054.

Date: January 19, 2012
Location: Online access via computer
Time: 12 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE – UPCOMING

The Professional Development Task Force is currently working on a Budgeting Workshop to be offered in the Spring (April/May) of 2012. This course will be covering many budgeting aspects and allow you to network with other municipalities to come up with some best budgeting practices. As it is still in the development stage we wanted to let everyone know that we will be offering this course. Also for your interest we are still determining if two different courses will be offered – one tailored to small municipalities and the other for the larger municipalities. Mark your calendars now and we will see you in the spring!

Remember the new Job Posting Board on the Employment page of our website. It allows all municipalities in Alberta to present finance related job vacancies to their ultimate target audience (Government Finance Officers) in one place. We ask each member to ensure that your Human Resources department is aware of this service and encourage them to utilize it when looking for finance staff. There is a relatively nominal fee to post a job (with a reduction for GFOA member municipalities) that recognizes the value of this service.

GFOA would be interested to know if you have had success from job postings on our website. Please feel free to contact Candace Coombs with any of your success stories!





Accounting for Employee Future Benefits - What's All the Fuss?

January 23, 2012 10:30 am - 12:00 pm MST

This webinar will be lead by Bill Cox of BDO Canada LLP Chartered Accountants and Nick Gubbay of Mercer Actuaries and HR Consulting.

It will cover accounting items including:

Summary of the Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB" requirements) and explanation of differences from other standards (notably sick days that accumulate but do not vest)

Real world examples of liabilities discovered where none expected as a result of methodological review to meet PSAB standards

Discussion of common fallacies which may lead a local government to believe that they have no issue in this area

The webinar will also cover actuarial items including:

Explanation of the actuary's role and what the actuary does

How the actuary can help determine the types of liabilities that exist

High level overview of the actuarial calculation process

The value of this information for future salary and benefit increase negotiations

Bill Cox is a Chartered Accountant and Partner with BDO Canada LLP. Bill works with many local governments in BC, Alberta and the Yukon and is BDO's Western Canada Leader for local government. Bill is a regular presenter to both GFOA Alberta and GFOA BC conferences and seminars

Nick Gubbay is a Partner in Mercer's Vancouver office and Chief Actuary for the Canadian Health and Benefits Business. He assists public and private sector clients, including local and provincial governments, with the design and funding of employee benefit plans, and in the evaluation of liabilities associated with non-pension post-retirement and post-employment benefits.

Those interested in attending, please email Candace Coombs directly at candelah@explornet.com

