



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, ALBERTA CHAPTER

GFOA Newsletter

Fall 2016

2017 Conference

Grande Prairie, Alberta

“Change Management – Shift Happens”

Conference Details—June 4th-7th, 2017

The 2017 Conference will be held at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre, 11633 - 100 Street, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3Y4. The theme will be "Change Management - Shift Happens". This conference will be co-hosted by the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 and the City of Grande Prairie.

Rooms available at the main hotel, the Pomeroy (phone: 800-661-6529) or their direct line 780-532-5221, will be at \$179 per night. Additional rooms have been blocked as well at the Holiday Inn Express (phone: 855-499-0001) at \$169.00 per night and the Stonebridge Hotel (phone: 888-419-4657) at \$159.00 per night. Please quote group code GFOAGP when booking your rooms. Watch the website for details as they become available.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks and please visit the GFOA website at: <https://www.gfoa.ab.ca>

It is crucial that we develop real awareness of ourselves as citizens of Earth, linked by mutual and indissoluble bonds. When we clearly recognize this reality and ground ourselves in it, we are compelled to take a strict accounting of our way of life.

Daisaku Ikeda



In This Issue

- 2017 Conference Information Update
- A look at your NEW Executive Director
- Presidents Message
- Professional Development 2016
- GFOA's Canadian Award for Financial Reporting Program
- 2016/2017 GFOA Board of Directors
- Communications Task Force
- Enhancements to the GFOA website

A Look at your NEW Executive Director...

Allan Bartolcic has been working in the non-profit and not-for-profit in association management, for over 12 years. He brings a vast experience and background in working with volunteers from committee's/task force's, all the way through to a board/council level.

He is very proud to be representing GFOA Alberta, as the new Executive Director. Since accepting the position nearly 5 months ago, he has had the privilege of speaking first-hand with the sponsors and many delegates, as to their overall satisfaction in the high quality conferences, professional development sessions, along with expanding ever-growing member services. Keep in mind...all this during a time of transition.

This would not be possible without the tireless efforts, from the many GFOA Alberta volunteers, assisting in countless capacities from serving on the board of directors, committees and task force(s). Allan is also excited to reintroduce a quarterly newsletter, an updated sponsorship package for the 2017 conference, bylaw w/ policy updates and new professional development workshops. Finally he also encourages all members and non members of GFOA Alberta, to join us in Grande Prairie June 4th-7th next year. The theme is "Change Management – Shift Happens".



Presidents Message...

What keeps you in government finance? Is it to make a difference?



The need for financial leadership seems to be growing. Our leaders and colleagues count on us to manage the finances – a difficult and influential role. Often it is our influence that effects how well an organization deals with financial responsibilities.

Finance officers throughout government are dedicated to tackling this challenge and many of us belong to GFOA Alberta, for good reasons.

On top of GFOA's high quality conference and growing network, member services are expanding significantly. In the next year we will see more courses, more research issues and more information about our colleagues. The volunteer efforts of many GFOA members are key to these services.

Personally, GFOA has made a big difference to me. I have many new colleagues who encourage me, honestly share their own successes and failures, and challenge me. Sometimes I need to hear "that's a bad idea" or "no" from just the right person – it can take a few tries.

Anyone in government finance who is trying to make more of a difference should consider joining GFOA. Members should look at helping out. You have lots to contribute and many new people to meet.

Professional Development

New PD courses being developed:

User Fees

Taxation & Assessment

Banking & Investment

**As well, stay tuned to the NEW Stakeholder Relationships and Regional Collaboration workshop.

GFOA's Canadian Award for Financial Reporting Program

The number of governments participating in the GFOA's Canadian Award for Financial Reporting Program is increasing each year.

We are looking for additional reviewers for the program. A reviewer is only asked to review one report a year, toward the end of the year.

A review only takes approximately two to four hours and there is a reviewer's checklist to guide them. For further information, enclosed is a link on the benefits of being a reviewer, please see page 2.

<http://www.gfoa.org/sites/default/files/u63/GFOATrainingCanFRDetails.pdf>

2016-2017 GFOA Board of Directors

Glen Jarbeau	President	City of Spruce Grove (The)
Kelly Gibson	Past President	Town of Banff
Ed Kaemingh	Vice-President	Sturgeon County
Gene Peskens	Treasurer	City of Edmonton (The)
Jennifer Place	Secretary	Lethbridge County
Darcy Ferguson	Director-at-Large	Special Areas Board
Allan Gee	Director-at-Large	City of Calgary (The)
Travis Nosko	Director-at-Large	Alberta Municipal Affairs
Heather Gray-Surkan	Director-at-Large	Red Deer County
Candace Coombs	Executive Administrator	GFOA, Alberta Chapter
Allan Bartolcic	Executive Director	GFOA, Alberta Chapter

Communications Task Force Is Looking for YOU!

The task force is looking for a couple volunteer GFOA members. The commitment would be once a month, with the majority of meetings taking place via tele-conference with a face-to-face once or twice a year. If you would like to work with a great group of doers and contribute in a meaningful manner to your association, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Barry Sawada, Chair of the Communications Task Force via email at barry.sawada@lethbridge.ca



Enhancements to the Website

GFOA Alberta is very proud of the numerous enhancements to the website. We will continue to strive to provide added value with products and services to our members, and look forward to further enhancements as we grow and strive as a professional association. See below some of the improvements we have made thus far:

- ⇒ New pictures on the tab site - pictures of various geographical areas throughout the province (like Maligne Lake and the Hoodoos)
- ⇒ Drop down arrows and hover feature available for tabs showing what can be found in the various tabs
- ⇒ Re-organization of the Members Only page for ease of navigation
- ⇒ Addition of credit card payments for membership renewals
- ⇒ Addition of 'submit a comment' also on the Members Only page
- ⇒ Addition of software to handle webinars and videos in the future
- ⇒ Addition(s) of new email addresses for Executive Administrator and Executive Director for consistency
candace.coams@gfoa.ab.ca &
allan.bartolcic@gfoa.ab.ca

Next Issue to include...

- * Municipal Tax prep 2017
- * Economic Update
- * Workshop Updates
- * 2017 Conference Updates
- * Sponsorship
- * Bylaw Updates