

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS - Tuesday, May 25th

Delegates must be registered and paid in advance for the pre-conference sessions.

CONCURRENT A

Working with MIABC: Getting Value for your Premium Dollar

Instructor: Mitchell Kenyon
Room: Salon C
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This course will provide examples and information about how to work effectively with the Municipal Insurance Association of BC, particularly in the areas of claim administration, risk management and maximizing premium discounts. Learn how to reduce the effort spent on administering claims, reduce insurable risks and provide information that MIA needs in an efficient way.

CONCURRENT B

Working with BC Assessment: End to End Process

Instructors: Bruce Tasaka, Graham Held, Kash Kang
Room: Salon D
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of key end-to-end processes that support local governments to achieve their objectives. Learn the *who, what, where, when, why* and *how* of supplementary rolls, non-market change and ownership/address change reporting.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS - Wednesday, May 26th

6:30 A.M.

MORNING WELLNESS

7:30 A.M.

Registration in foyer

BREAKFAST

8:30 A.M.

Out of our Silos:

What do we need to learn about Asset Management?

John Weninger, Urban Systems

Wally Wells, Wells Infrastructure Group

Room: Salon A

The Local Government Asset Management Working Group of BC, has designed and carried out a study to learn what communities are doing, what they understand and what we need to do to further asset management, especially in our smaller communities. John and Wally will present the findings of the study which will provide the federal, provincial and municipal governments with a basis to assess needs and design policies, and programs to support the identified needs.

Deficit Recovery

Jim Alexander, KPMG

Room: Salon B

In the midst of the economic downturn, the lack of political support to increase taxes and all levels of government struggling with structural deficits, municipalities are faced with challenging solutions for shrinking revenues and increased costs. Jim will discuss various approaches being taken by Canadian municipalities focusing on the affordability of services, service levels and some of the significant re-thinking of what constitutes affordable local services.

Mystery Around School Tax Unveiled

Penny-Rae Schur, Property Taxation Branch, Ministry of Finance

Room: Salon C

Did you know that B.C.'s school tax is the only province-wide tax levied on property; it does not generate revenues earmarked specifically for public education and the tax goes into general revenue to fund a variety of citizen services? This session is designed to clarify our role and that of the province in the administration of school taxes to ensure financial control and accountability for the collection and remittance of these taxes, including payments in lieu of school taxes.

9:15 A.M.

Your Pension...

Ken Bayne, City of Vancouver

Room: Salon A

Will we be ok when we retire? As a Trustee of the Municipal Pension Plan, Ken will share the latest news from our Municipal Pension Plan, the issues and challenges as they affect us as employers as well as future retirees.

Budgeting Innovation

Allan Booth, Questica

Valla Tinney, Town of Sidney

Susanne Thompson, City of Victoria

Room: Salon B

Budgeting has come a long way from countless hours in front of Excel spreadsheets. Technology is now enabling municipalities to develop their budgets using systems that provide analysis and decision-making tools that were unimaginable only a short time ago. This session will discuss the new innovative budgeting solutions that municipalities have implemented which have changed municipal budgeting into strategic budgeting for the future.

Keeping Environmental Liabilities off the Ledger

Kate Dodge, AON Reed Stenhouse

Room: Salon C

Municipalities manage a wide spectrum of environmental exposures, including risks both common to the private sector and others specific to the public sector. The diversity of exposures facing a municipality includes landfills, recycling facilities and water/wastewater treatment facilities. These risks present obvious environmental consequences for Canadian's municipalities and this session will focus on identifying, reducing, managing and transferring these liabilities.

10:00 A.M.

NETWORKING BREAK in foyer

CONFERENCE SESSIONS - Wednesday, May 26th

10:30 A.M.

Are you Ready for HST?

Heather Weber, Meyers, Norris, Penny

Room: Salon A

Preparing for implementing HST will be a challenge. What types of transactions are taxable and what are not? What will be changing on July 1, 2010? Transitional rules will impact transactions that are taking place now, so what about transactions that occurred before May 1, 2010? This session will help to explain the impact of HST and what those operating in the MUSH sector can do now to prepare for the HST including applying for rebates.

Bargaining Employee Benefits – Be Prepared!

Darrin Bull, Mercer

Mike Greschner, Mercer

Room: Salon B

This session will provide an overview of recent trends in the employee benefits marketplace and benefit plan management strategies. These will then be integrated into approaches that can be employed in preparing for and conducting negotiation for employee benefits. Finally, lessons learned from recent bargaining experience will be discussed. This session will be a good primer for municipalities looking to get started on their preparations for upcoming negotiations.

11:15 A.M.

Fraud Exists in Your Municipality

Bill Cox, BDO Canada LLP

Room: Salon A

Fraud exists in EVERY organization. The key is to put controls and procedures in place to reduce the opportunity for fraud. Tools identified include segregation of duties and an external fraud risk analysis. Through first-hand experience, Bill will discuss various real life fraud scenarios including what it was, how it occurred and how was it discovered. He will also share results from human behaviour studies related to fraud and how to use information wisely from employees and auditors to stay on top of potential fraud areas.

Consumer GIS: Faster, Cheaper & Easier

Chris Webber, Pacific Alliance Technologies

Room: Salon B

Until recently, implementing GIS meant buying software and employing highly trained GIS staff. And that only got you ten percent of the way to implementation; ninety percent of the cost of GIS was data acquisition. Such high initial costs left very little to invest in system integration or tailored systems. Today GIS has been taken over by consumers. Like any consumer product, the cost is dramatically reduced and there is a lot of functionality that can be tailored to the needs of the Municipal Finance Officer. Come see how you can leverage consumer GIS to better visualize your finance data!

Understanding & Managing Insurance on Municipal Construction Projects

Paula Garrecht, Capri Insurance

Room: Salon C

All Municipalities and Regional districts get involved in Construction projects; but are we handling the insurable risks in the most effective way? This presentation will include an overview of the various insurances available: Builder's Risk, Soft Costs, Equipment Breakdown, Commercial General Liability and Wrap-up Liability. It will look at the important considerations and advantages of Owners taking responsibility for insurance on major projects to improve Control, Costs, Representation, etc.

12:00 P.M.

LUNCH in foyer

1:30 P.M.

Strategies for Funding Depreciation

Mindy Smith, City of Port Coquitlam

Room: Salon A

Many local governments are in the process of finalizing their new PSAB compliant financial statements. The last few years have been challenging and the recommended changes have required considerable effort and time. Were the results worth the effort? This session will analyze several BC municipalities' TCA schedules for the estimated funding gap, will assess capital expenditures for financial sustainability and will discuss several options for funding depreciation.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS - Wednesday, May 26th

1:30 P.M.

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Training Council in Finance

Linda Tynan, City of Nelson

Room: Salon C

Presenting financial information to council or a regional district board can be a daunting task for local government finance officers. This presentation will explore strategies that have proved to be effective in finding the balance between detail and overview when training council in finance. Ideas on presentation methods, material to provide, styles, and ways we can work to ensure our elected officials have the information they need to confidently discuss financial matters. Time will be allowed for discussion and participation – what experiences have you had with your elected officials? What works and what doesn't?!

2:15 P.M.

Learn from our US Counterparts

Dan Underwood, WFOA

Room: Salon A

Think about it.....several B.C. municipalities are within 200 kilometers from the US Border....both countries are doing the same thing....dealing with Finance issues in a tough economy. Dan Underwood, Washington State GFOA President, will share his perspective on the challenges and successes happening in the US regarding the economic growth and investment with our largest trading partner.

Best Practices for Local Government

Jim Rusnak, Metro Vancouver

Diana Lokken, CRD

Room: Salon B

Come hear an update on best practices and an overview of the activities of GFOA's Committee on Canadian Issues.

Streamline – Getting Better Value for your Bank Fees

Shawn Siak, RBC

Room: Salon C

Get payback before your next RFP! Internal processes can be streamlined or consolidated to directly reduce your bank fees. This session will discuss how to get the most value for your bank fees and ensure you are not susceptible to fraud by using appropriate services, as fraud is much more expensive than bank fees.

2:45 P.M.

NETWORKING BREAK in foyer

3:15 P.M.

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Grants for Improving GIS Data & Integration

Ann Archibald, ICIS

Tillie Manthey, City of Courtenay

Room: Salon B

This presentation will focus on the funding opportunities available to Local Government ICIS members through the CivicSpatial Grant funding program. This initiative is designed to help local governments improve the quality of their cadastral base and the maintenance and sharing of spatial data. In this session, the City of Courtenay will share its experience of achieving their long term goals of data integration.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS - Wednesday, May 26th

4:00 P.M.

The Changing Role of IT in Municipalities

Barbara Davey, MISA

Room: Salon A

As technology becomes more ubiquitous and reliable and as IT becomes better at delivering core IT functions, the role of your Information Technology team is changing from the tactical day to day to the forward thinking trusted supplier for delivery of new technology projects and in the future, a full strategic business partner. This session will provide a look at this new IT role and what it means for you as a customer.

Working With Your Public Works Department

Jeanette Austin, PWABC

Marlie Worrin, City of Merritt

Shawn Boven, City of Merritt

Room: Salon B

Develop group cohesiveness to become effective. With every game you play there are rules, but if you don't know what they are how can you play? Develop strategies for engaging and communicating with your Public Works department. This session will focus on speaking the same language, using open communication, learning & communication styles, listening and building your team!

GFOA Without Borders

Diana Lokken, CRD

Room: Salon C

Join Diana as she shares her experiences working with local governments abroad.

5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Join us for a fun evening of socializing with other GFOA BC members at MackDaddy's Nightclub. There will be a variety of wines to sample as well as other beverages and appetizers.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS - Thursday, May 27th

6:30 A.M.

MORNING WELLNESS

7:30 A.M.

Registration in foyer

BREAKFAST

8:30 A.M.

OPENING REMARKS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tamara Vrooman - CEO, Vancity Credit Union

Leading the largest credit union in English-speaking Canada, Tamara's leadership in 2009 earned Vancity its second-highest net income on record. She has received many awards and recognition, including being named among the Top 100 most Powerful Women Canada in 2008 and Influential Women in BC Business in 2009. Tamara is a former Deputy Minister of Finance with the BC government. Today, she will share her experiences, inspire us and leave us thinking.

10:00 A.M.

NETWORKING BREAK in foyer

10:30 A.M.

Connecting the Asset Management and Accounting Dots

Dr. Guy Felio, Infrastructure Strategies & Research

In local government, asset management is the hot topic. A great amount of effort is underway to value our assets and start using life cycle planning for eventual replacement. Each profession is focusing their efforts on managing their part of the process – the accountants, the engineers, the budget people. But have we thought about our citizens? What levels and quality of infrastructure should a municipality have to service their citizens? How does this level of service translate into our processes for managing accounts and assets? Have we connected all the dots? Dr. Félío will discuss these questions and then share highlights of a National Study soon to be released which asked for local governments' response to a survey regarding various aspects of asset management and asset accounting.

11:30 A.M.

GFOA BC Annual General Meeting

12:00 P.M.

LUNCH in Ballroom

After lunch, Paul Macklem, President of GFOA of US and Canada will make a short address

Early-bird prize will be drawn

1:30 P.M.

Collector's Forum

Doug Stein, District of Saanich
Pat Kendall, Young, Anderson
Parvinder Hardwick, Young Anderson
Room: Salon A

Come join other municipal collectors to discuss issues of interest. There will be updates from BC Assessment, Home Owner Grant and Deferment offices, legal updates and a round table for open discussion.

RCMP Semi-Annual Budget Meeting

Max Xiao, RCMP E Division
Alain Bisson, RCMP E Division
Room: Salon B

The RCMP Budget Meeting will cover the new 5 Year forecast released in mid-May for all Municipal contracts with an overview on major changes, a section on how to improve our reporting to your city, an update on CCVE and cell retrofit and an update on CAC and the RCMP Contract negotiation.

Regional District Forum

Jim Rusnak, Metro Vancouver
Marilyn Rilkoff, Regional District of Central Okanagan
Sheila Thiessen, Regional District of Thompson-Nicola
Verna Wickie, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
Room: Salon C

Finance Officers will explore topics of interest affecting their Regional District organizations.

2:45 P.M.

NETWORKING BREAK in foyer

CONFERENCE SESSIONS - Thursday, May 27th

3:15 P.M.

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Continued from 1:30 p.m. session.

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Room: Salon C

Continued from 1:30 p.m. session.

6:30 P.M.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Please join us for cocktails in the foyer at 6:30 pm, followed by dinner at 7:30 pm. Then get ready to exercise those smile muscles as Rock, Paper, Scissors entertains everyone with their improv comedy show after dinner! This group of talented and funny entertainers has designed a show unique to our event that will get the laughter rolling.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS - Friday, May 28th

7:30 A.M.

Registration in foyer

BREAKFAST

8:30 A.M.

Borrowing Programs

Shelley Hahn, MFA BC

Andrew Kemp, FCM

Karen Ungerson, CMHC

As local government finance officers, we're responsible for ensuring we make the best choice for financing projects for our respective organizations. Borrowing programs at the national level include the FCM's Green Municipal Fund and CMHC's Municipal Infrastructure Lending program provide assistance to municipalities for initiatives that benefit the community and for building housing-related infrastructure. This session's panel will discuss these borrowing programs, the rules and how they work in conjunction with MFA's borrowing processes.

9:15 A.M.

Ministry Update with Talitha Soldera

9:30 A.M.

2010: A Year of Transition

Allan Seychuk, RBC/Phillips, Hager, North

The robust recovery in the global economy continues, but this is no longer the major story. Instead, investors will have to come to grips with a critical shift in many of the key market drivers, and we expect heightened volatility to be the result. Over this year we expect to see the robust recovery slow to half-speed. Housing, jobs, credit markets, deleveraging and exit strategies are all still present on our list of concerns, but have now been joined by a couple of new ones: deficits and sovereign debt. Monetary policy is expected to tighten. Government emphasis is shifting from supporting the economy to fiscal restraint. On the corporate front, cost cutting has delivered all it can in the near term and must now cede the floor to revenue growth. And probably most importantly, attention has shifted from the effectiveness of the economic bailout to its long-term costs to taxpayers. Despite all this, stocks remain the best place to invest.

10:30 A.M.

NETWORKING BREAK in foyer

11:00 A.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nancy Greene Raine, Senator for British Columbia

Named Canada's female athlete of the last century, Nancy has chartered a legendary course on and off the ski slopes. In 2009, Nancy was named a Senator by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. She is an officer of both the Orders of Canada and BC and is a member of the National Sports Hall of Fame. Since 1994 she has been Director of Skiing at Sun Peaks Resort and since 2005 she has been Chancellor of Thompson Rivers University. Today at our conference, Nancy will share her leadership insights and experiences both as an entrepreneur and a politician plus she will share her enthusiasm for supporting young talented athletes in her community and across Canada.

12:00 P.M.

LUNCH at local restaurants