

What You Always Wanted to Know About the GFOA Organizations!

The functions of four **different** organizations and how they are inter-related follows:

GFOA (International)

http://www.gfoa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=76&Itemid=96

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 will be in Fort Lauderdale in 2008, 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 GFOA of BC.

GFOA of BC

This is our organization. It is incorporated as a society under the *Societies Act of BC* and is governed entirely by local directors who you elect annually. It is “affiliated” with the GFOA of US and Canada; but is not a chapter, does not pay any dues to the International body and has no voting rights in or say in the way the International body is run. We have 450 members in BC and you can see in the rest of this newsletter, the services that we offer.

Western Canada GFOA

People often get confused by this organization. It is actually older than the GFOA of BC and its sole purpose is to arrange an annual conference in Western Canada. The conference venue is chosen by the association (usually rotating through the four western provinces and the territories on a 5-year rotation) and the host city actually puts on the conference. Each province and territory appoints members who govern the organization but there are no individual memberships. The GFOA of BC appoints two members to sit on the board; currently Diana Lokken and Patricia Roberts.

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 GFOA of BC makes recommendations on membership, appointments are made in Chicago. Currently the committee is chaired by Paul Macklem of Kelowna and other BC members are Diana Lokken and Esther Lee.