

GFOABC FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

Boot Camp

The Ultimate Toolkit in Action

A 5-day residential program for local government finance professionals. Grounded in BC legislation and the GFOABC Leadership Competency Framework.

5 Days

IN-PERSON RESIDENTIAL

19

YEARS OF DELIVERY

40

CPD HOURS

Summer

AUGUST 10-14, 2026

THE CHALLENGE

The Role No One Prepares You For

The financial officer is one of three statutory positions a council or board must establish by law. It carries **personal liability**. It demands fluency in legislation that most finance professionals never encountered in their accounting training. And it sits at the intersection of every major decision your local government makes.

Yet most financial officers step into this role without a structured foundation in the legislative framework that defines it. The *Community Charter*, the *Local Government Act*, and the regulations that flow from them create a complex web of responsibilities — from managing reserves and debt to advising elected officials on financial sustainability.

Boot Camp exists to close that gap. In five days, it gives you the statutory grounding, the practical tools, and the peer network you need to lead with confidence. Each participant receives the **Boot Camp Toolkit** — templates, legislative references, and leadership resources designed to be used on the job.

LEADERSHIP COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

Boot Camp is grounded in the **GFOABC LCF** — the shared language for professional development across all seven leadership competencies. Participants complete a self-assessment on Day 1 and leave with a clearer picture of their leadership growth edges.

PROGRAM HISTORY

2007

First cohort
at UVic

2022

LCF
integrated

2026

Enhanced
relaunch

PROGRAM DESIGN

Five Days. Five Essential Topics.

<p>1 DAY 1 · MONDAY Role of the Financial Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Statutory roles & legal authority· Legislative requirements· Personal liability· Stakeholder engagement· Leadership Competency Framework· Ethics & communication	<p>2 DAY 2 · TUESDAY Sources & Uses of Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Expenditure & liability framework· Restrictions on expenditure· Reserves & surplus· Development Cost Charges· Debt financing & investments· Grants & other revenue	<p>3 DAY 3 · WEDNESDAY Property Taxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Property tax framework· Assessment & classification· Tax rates & bylaws· Permissive exemptions· Collection & enforcement· Practical scenarios
<p>4 DAY 4 · THURSDAY Budgeting & Financial Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Financial sustainability· Legislative requirements· Operating & capital plans· Budget principles & process· Presenting & approving budgets· Service enhancements	<p>5 DAY 5 · FRIDAY Financial Accounting & Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Financial reporting types· Statement of Financial Information· LGDE & asset management· Annual & quarterly reports· Accounting standards overview· Working with your auditor	<p>+ EVERY EVENING Case Studies & Group Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Small-group breakout discussions· Real-world scenario challenges· Peer report-backs & plenary· Networking dinners· Day 4 Gala & skit presentations· Day 5 certificate ceremony

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Practitioner-Led Presentations

Structured instruction grounded in BC legislation and the LCF.

Member-to-Member Learning

Round-table seating and cross-organization breakouts.

Real-Life Case Studies

Evening scenarios on ethics, debt, budgets — led by practitioners.

Applied Exercises

Scenario exercises throughout each day in real-world context.

Program Outcomes

Build Your Legislative Foundation

Confident understanding of your statutory authority, duties, and personal liability. Ability to interpret and apply legislation in practice — not just know what it says, but know what it means for your decisions.

Strengthen Your Financial Leadership

Clearer picture of your leadership strengths and growth edges through the LCF self-assessment. Greater capacity to navigate the "balancing act" — enforcing financial controls while building trust with colleagues and council.

Earn Professional Development Credit

40 continuing professional development hours. Time invested directly strengthens your capacity in your current role.

Develop Practical Skills

Confidence presenting financial information to council/board in a way that enables good decisions. Practical tools for budgeting, financial planning, property taxation, and reporting that you can apply immediately. A comprehensive Toolkit of templates designed for daily use.

Expand Your Network

Deep connections with local government finance professionals from across British Columbia — peers who understand your context. Access to a province-wide alumni network through GFOABC's forums, webinars, and annual conference.

PROGRAM ARC

The Full Week

- 1 Pre-Program Materials**
Pre-read package with legislative references, program orientation, and the LCF self-assessment.
- 2 5-Day Residential Workshop**
Full days (8:30 AM – 5 PM) + evening case studies, networking dinners, Day 4 Gala, Day 5 certificate.
- 3 Boot Camp Toolkit**
Templates, legislative references, and leadership resources — designed to be used on the job.
- 4 Ongoing GFOABC Network**
Alumni join a province-wide network. Forums, webinars, and annual conference provide ongoing connection.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- New Finance Officers**
Recently appointed officers seeking a foundation in their statutory role.
- Deputy & Assistant Finance Officers**
Moving into or preparing for senior officer responsibilities.
- Finance Team Leaders**
Benefit from understanding the full legislative framework they work within.
- Experienced Officers Refreshing**
Reconnect with foundational legislation and benchmark against the LCF.

TUITION & REGISTRATION

MEMBER GFOABC member organization		NON-MEMBER Non-member organization	
EARLY BIRD	REGULAR	EARLY BIRD	REGULAR
\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$5,000
plus GST	plus GST	plus GST	plus GST

Early bird deadline: June 6, 2026 · Includes accommodation, all meals, toolkit, gala, certificate, 40 CPD hours · Travel not included

Everything You Need for the Week

- ✓ University of Victoria accommodation — 5 nights
- ✓ All workshop materials & Boot Camp Toolkit
- ✓ All meals — breakfasts, lunches, breaks, dinners
- ✓ Leadership Competency Framework self-assessment
- ✓ Evening case study & networking sessions
- ✓ Day 4 Gala evening & Day 5 certificate ceremony
- ✓ Access to GFOABC Boot Camp alumni network
- ✓ 40 continuing professional development hours

△ Travel expenses to and from Victoria not included

Credit cards charged June 12, 2026 · Cheques/EFTs due by June 12 · Cancellations before June 12: 10% admin fee · After June 12: transfer to 2027 or same-org substitute · Participants must stay at UVic accommodations.



For nearly two decades, Boot Camp has been the program that defines what it means to be a financial officer in British Columbia. Each cohort leaves UVic not just with a stronger grasp of the legislation, but with the professional relationships and leadership confidence that shape how they serve their communities for years to come.

— Kala Harris, Executive Director, GFOABC

Ready to Build Your Toolkit?

Registration is now open for Boot Camp 2026. Secure your spot and take the next step in your financial leadership journey.

[Register Now](#)