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May 2022 E-Newsletter



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AGM June 8 @3PM via Zoom

Welcome Alanna Creagh

Alanna Creagh recently joined the GFOA team as Executive Administrator!

She is a dedicated administrative professional with a wide range of experience including project management, online marketing, bookkeeping, event planning, and office administration.

Alanna is enthusiastic about advancing the mission of the organization through improved process development and providing quality support for the membership, board and task forces, and larger administrative team.

With a passion to always learn more, Alanna appreciates the value of professional development and personal growth opportunities. She has lived in rural east-central Alberta and then Calgary, with a recent move to the beautiful foothills and Town of Turner Valley, where she enjoys spending quality time with her family, volunteering in her community, and exploring the tremendous beauty

Alberta has to offer.

If you'd like to reach out to Alanna, please contact her via email at office@gfoa.ab.ca.

Executive Director News

Hello GFOA Alberta Members,

As you read above, we welcomed Alanna to the team. I can see already the experience she brings is going to be a great asset to the GFOA Alberta and I am enjoying working with her. If you are not already following us on **LinkedIn**, I encourage you to do so. We are becoming more active with social media with Alanna and Sheila (MORCOMM PR & Events) as proficient users (not like me, I don't understand Face Tweets or Twitter Book I'm more grumbling in the coffee shop type)!

The Board met in Calgary this past week and had a very productive meeting. Here are a few highlights of the meeting:

Event Code of Conduct Policy

The [Event Code of Conduct Policy](#) was adopted. It documents the organization's commitment to harassment free events. Having a written form of the policy will demonstrate to current and potential members the values the organization embraces. We will be making the policy readily available for viewing soon to members, sponsors, exhibitors, and speakers.

Professional Development

The Board reconfirmed their belief that professional development opportunities for GFOA Alberta members is a fundamental activity of the organization. We are exploring a few different avenues to provide learning opportunities, including regional training sessions. Keep watching for further activity (another reason to follow us on **LinkedIn**).

Facility Tour

Many other items were discussed with details emerging as the items begin to solidify (such as 2024 conference location). We were given a site tour of the conference hotel and The Pioneer, our chosen welcome reception facility. I was downtown Calgary for the evening of the 24th and found considerably more Oilers fans than for the Flames, I guess the Flames fans were practicing staying home (just saying 😊).

In the last newsletter I shared that we would start highlighting Member Profiles. This month's '**Member Profile**' features Christa Cornelssen, Director of Corporate Services, County of Stettler. Learn more about Christina further on in this edition.

Please save the date for the Annual General Meeting which will be held virtually, June 8 at 3:00 p.m.

The agenda will be made available soon. This meeting will cover the financial statements and election of the 2022/2023 Board of Directors. Not only will you be the first to hear of the 2022/2023 GFOA Alberta Board but you will also be entered into a draw to win a \$100 gift certificate! A subsequent meeting October 19th at the conference will include the President's presentation and a report from each task force chair.

Speaking of the October conference, I thank the sponsors and exhibitors that have signed up to date for their support and I look forward to bringing on other sponsors and exhibitors. We are very excited about the upcoming conference. The keynotes and breakout session speakers are lining up to be nothing but spectacular (you read right, spectacular)! The facility is downtown Calgary with all the amenities, the rooms will provide the relaxation you require after a day of development, and the conference space with modern audio/video is conducive to learning.

Alberta Municipal Affairs is seeking comments on the merging of the Financial Information Return (FIR) and the Statistical Information Return (SIR). The main implication is that the SIR would be filed in May rather than July. Take a look at the proposal and contact Municipal Affairs at the email indicated in their request if you have comments or concerns.

Please share the conference information through your network.

Sincerely,
Rick Wojtkiw
Interim Executive Director

'Energizing The Future' Conference



Register your spot at the '**Energizing the Future**' 2022 Conference to be held at the Calgary Hyatt Regency from October 16–19, 2022.

We have a dynamic speaker lineup including the Hon. **Jody Wilson-Raybould**, Former Member of Parliament, Former Minister of Justice, and Attorney General of Canada as our opening keynote speaker! As well as featured speakers:

Chris Turner, Expert on Sustainability, Climate Change, Cleantech and the Global Energy Transition

Ruthann Weeks, People & Culture Strategist, Author, Expert on Workplace Psychological Safety and Compliance with OH&S

The **Welcome Reception** will be hosted October 16 from 4 to 9 pm at **The Pioneer**, just steps away from the Hyatt and sponsored by CIBC. Be sure to join us for cocktails, appetizers and catch up with people in our network.

Register your [spot](#) and book your [hotel](#) to secure your group rate.

We have set aside 220 rooms at the Hyatt Regency; I encourage you to book early so we can work with the hotel to set aside more rooms as needed.

Interested Sponsors and Exhibitors can contact the Event Organizer,

E: Sheila Moore sheila@morcommpr.com

P:780.953.8733.

Please share with your colleagues and network.

2022 Sponsors & Exhibitors

Thank you to our 2022 Sponsors & Exhibitors

After a couple of years of virtual events, we are grateful to see our past Sponsors support the GFOA.

We have unique sponsorship opportunities and a handful of spots left in Exhibitor Row.

We will update this section each month so you can see who you might be interested in connecting with at the conference.

2022 Sponsors To-Date

CIBC

Hobson Chahal Advisory Group

InfoStrat, a division of Serenic Software

Canoe Procurement, RMA

CPA

2022 Exhibitors To-Date

PSD Citywide Inc.

Ab Munis

Municipal 360

Interested Sponsors and Exhibitors can contact the Event Organizer,

E: Sheila Moore sheila@morcommpr.com

P:780.953.8733.

Member Profile

Christa Cornelssen, Director of Corporate Services, County of Stettler.

Christa Cornelssen started working in Municipal Government, County of Stettler, in 2006 after working 8 years for a local accounting firm. Her position started as Director of Finance and in the last few years it has transitioned into

Director of Corporate Services.

When starting with Municipal Government she quickly noticed training opportunities weren't as readily available for municipal employees in finance and when the call from Professional Development Task Force went out she stepped forward to join. Christa was involved with the development of a number of courses and conferences.

In the past couple of years, she then stepped forward to be a Member at Large on the Alberta GFOA board. As her work commitments continue to grow, she has announced that she will no longer remain on the board and will be stepping down.

At the County of Stettler, Christa is responsible for overseeing four different companies, County of Stettler, Stettler District Ambulance Association, Stettler Waste Management Authority and the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission. Each company has its own set of accounting records and financial statements that are audited and presented to their respective boards. Her position includes managing a diverse time including Financial Services including payroll and taxes, Human Resources, Asset Management, Records Management, Insurance and Recreation. Located in central Alberta, Stettler County is nestled atop the east bank of the Red Deer River and is a mix of agricultural operations and oil and gas.

Christa has been involved with volunteering also within her community and holding various positions including past treasurer for minor hockey in Stettler, volunteering at local community groups, soccer, schools, volunteer program for income tax for low income individuals, and local events within the community.

Recently at work she has stepped forward to join the Central Region All-Hazards Incident Management Team.

In Christa's spare time she is active with her family, whether it is skiing, hiking, cross fitting, running or off on another family adventure.

2022 Membership Renewal Reminder

Thanks to all municipalities that have renewed your membership. For the few that have not yet renewed please see the updated fee schedule on our website by clicking [HERE](#)

Please also note that our website is currently under construction, and we have been working with Primary Contacts directly to create invoices on their behalf.

We appreciate the interesting time the last two years have been and hope to resume normal service for our members moving forward.

Please contact Alanna at Office@gfoa.ab.ca should you have any questions regarding your membership renewals.

Call for Task Force Volunteers

If you are looking to provide valuable service to GFOA Alberta, we are currently recruiting volunteers for three of our Task Forces:

- Communications Task Force
- Emerging Issues Task Force
- Professional Development Task Force

Please see the [Terms of Reference](#) (TOR) at the bottom of the About Us page for more information about each Task Force.

The Communications Task Force is seeking a volunteer to assist with Social Media Management. If you or someone you know has experience with producing content (in LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter) and is interested in providing assistance to GFOA, please see the full description [HERE](#).

If you are interested in any of the above volunteer positions, please send your resume and letter of interest to rick.wojtkiw@gfoa.ab.ca with PETF in the subject line.

Request for Comments

Alberta Municipal Affairs is seeking comments on the merging of the Financial Information Return (FIR) and the Statistical Information Return (SIR). The main implication is that the SIR would be filed in May rather than July. Take a look at the proposal and contact Municipal Affairs at the email indicated in their request if you have comments or concerns.

As Municipal Affairs begins this transition, they are seeking feedback on the following items regarding the existing statistical information:

1. Can it easily be “audited” and as such may be “transferred” into the Financial Information Return without adding significant costs to the municipality and/or auditor,
2. what lines may already exist as a data point within another easily accessible/verifiable dataset,
3. What, if any, additional lines should be added/removed/alterd to the unaudited schedule, and
4. Where should “Schedule ST” be placed within the template (first schedule seen or last schedule)

Municipal Affairs has heard that in some cases the FIR takes time to complete. As part of this review, Municipal Affairs is interested in hearing about solutions where/how this process can be automated, and if auditors have any experience in other jurisdictions where this process has automated.

Linked [here](#) for your reference are the following items, in draft format:

FIR Manual

SIR Manual

Municipal FIR

You can provide feedback on the GFOA website or reply to ma.updates@gov.ab.ca directly.

IAMA Workshop

Infrastructure Asset Management Alberta (IAMA) is a grassroots organization formed to help municipalities, and any other organization with capital assets, in managing those assets in smart, cost effective, “big picture” ways.

IAMA hosts three 1-day workshops each year where you’ll hear from municipalities from across Canada highlighting successes and challenges on a variety of topics including:

- Operational Topics (condition assessments, GIS implementation, life-cycle costing, climate change adaptation, etc.)
- Finance Topics (long-term budgeting, project prioritization, tangible capital assets, asset retirement obligations, etc.)

- Governance Topics (levels of service, asset management policy & strategy, etc.)

Our workshops are only \$75 for members (\$100 for non-members) with the next workshop being held **June 15, 2022**. Registration will open in early May at <https://assetmanagementab.ca/event/june-15-2022-workshop/>. To be added to our monthly newsletter distribution list, contact info@assetmanagementab.ca.

Professional Development

SAVE THE DATE!

Asset Retirement Obligations

Hosted by KPMG

DATE: June 23

LOCATION: Airdrie

Leadership in Municipal Budgeting

includes 2nd Session 'What's in the Box'

Hosted by Dr. Gordon McIntosh

DATE: TBA

LOCATION: TBA

On-Demand Webinars

Need CPE Credits?

It is as simple as 1-2-3 to access On Demand webinars! Simply login to the GFOA Alberta Website and click on the "On Demand" button in the top right corner. Work on your own schedule!

Career Postings

In order to post a job, click on the “**Career Postings**” tab, and then select “**MEMBERS**” or “**NON-MEMBERS**” to advertise the postings. If you have

any questions, please e-mail Office@gfoa.ab.ca

Featured Position

[Financial Analyst I Town of Blackfalds](#)

The posting remains open until suitable candidate found.

[GFOA Alberta Career Postings](#)

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About GFOA Alberta

- Formed in 1979
- Offer annual conferences and training opportunities for networking and professional development.
- Today our organization boasts over 1,200 members and serves a pivotal role in ensuring the financial well being of local government in our province.

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