



gfoaalberta
government finance officers association
GENERAL LEDGER
Monthly e-Newsletter

From the Executive Director: Connections have No Borders

Hi everyone, I was excited as I recently received an email about MAPS spelt backwards, it turned out to be SPAM 😊

We're fresh back from Saskatoon where we connected with hundreds of CAOs, council members, and finance professionals at SUMA—sharing the story of GFOA Alberta and welcoming new faces to our growing community. Because when it comes to supporting strong municipal finance... **we know no borders.**

Conference is SOLD OUT! Are You Ready?

We can't wait to see you in June! The 2025 Conference is shaping up to be one of our best ever. Here are a few **important reminders:**

- The program will be hosted at the Agri-Hub, with the final half-day session at the Sandman Signature, where many of you are staying.
- Gala June 3 at the Sandman Signature
- Shuttle service will be provided between venues and for activities like the Golf Tournament, Welcome Reception, and the CIBC Wood Gundy Meet & Greet.
- Pizza & Beer Reception June 2 in the Trade Show from 4:30-6PM

Great opportunity to connect with our amazing vendors!

- Hospitality Suite will be at the Sandman Signature and again is cohosted between PSD and GFOA Alberta. Big shout out to Matt, Mitch and Dan!

◆ **Post-Event Bonus Session Added!** June 4 @12:30PM Sandman Signature
We've added a Post-Conference Session on Financial Leadership presented by Deloitte. It's only \$30 per person and worth the extra time for those looking to deepen their strategic impact (and earn credit).

◆ **Golf Spots Left – Join Us!**

Don't miss the chance to kick off the conference in style at Paradise Canyon Golf Resort. **Tee time is at 1:30 PM**, giving you time to travel in the morning. It's the perfect way to network and unwind. Taco Bar, onsite games and refreshments, great prizes and shuttle service!

◆ **Earn Up to 13 CPA Verifiable Credits**

Your time is valuable—and so is your PD. This year's conference delivers up to 13 CPA credits, helping you stay current and compliant while having a blast.

◆ **Upcoming Webinars – Focus on Leadership**

We're rolling out more professional development sessions with a focus on leadership. Stay tuned for dates, speakers, and registration links—coming soon!

◆ **Spread the Word: Finance Officers Know No Borders**

We're proud to welcome new members from Saskatchewan and beyond. If you know a finance professional who could benefit from the GFOA Alberta network, send them our way!

◆ **P.S – Ricky Bot Is Always On!**

Need info fast? Ricky, our virtual assistant, is ready to help you find what you need on the website—whether it's events, webinars, or posting jobs.

Shout out to our partners at **Vivid Reports** for their featured article in this month's edition.

Read further on to learn how to **'Future Proof Your Finance Organization.'**

Let's keep building this strong, collaborative community—see you in June!

Rick Wojtkiw

Executive Director



⚠ Few Spots Left ⚠

Join us for the GFOA Alberta Conference 2025 kick-off with our annual Golf Tournament at Paradise Canyon on June 1 at 1:30 PM.

We've scheduled a later tee time to accommodate your travel plans to Lethbridge. Golfing offers a fantastic opportunity to build friendships, expand your network, and even discuss business deals in a relaxed setting.

Secure your spot today for \$165 per person. A complimentary shuttle service from the hotel is available for your convenience. Don't miss out on this popular event—register now and be part of the camaraderie!

Register Here: [GFOAALBERTA.CA](https://gfoaalberta.ca)

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FEATURED ARTICLE

Vivid Reports
Future Proof Your Finance Organization

Because budgets can't wait and neither can your team. In municipal finance, stability matters. So does adaptability. And balancing both while dealing with tight budgets, lean teams, and constant reporting demands is no small task. Even the best-run departments can feel vulnerable when one key person retires or moves on.

That's why future-proofing your finance organization isn't about new tech for the sake of it. It's about building reliable systems that carry the load, even when staffing changes or workloads spike.

◆ **Let your systems do the heavy lifting**

Manual reporting processes are fragile. One missed step, one wrong formula - and the numbers don't tell the full story. Automation won't solve everything, but it can make your job easier. When actuals and forecasts update automatically, you're less likely to spend hours double-checking formulas or chasing down data. Consistency builds trust in the numbers. It also helps you spot issues before they turn into surprises.

Even simple things - like shared templates or automated reports - can give your team more breathing room.

◆ **Turn over doesn't have to mean disruption**

People leave. Sometimes suddenly. But the systems they used shouldn't fall apart behind them. Well-organized files, clear documentation, and intuitive tools make it easier for someone else to step in when needed. It's not flashy, but it works. And it reduces the pressure on long-time staff who often become the "keepers of the knowledge."

◆ **Good data builds strong decisions**

When council wants answers, or auditors ask tough questions, having clean, accessible data isn't just helpful - it's essential. Transparency doesn't mean perfection. It means being able to stand behind the numbers and show how you got there.

That kind of confidence in the data makes your job easier - and it helps build trust with decision-makers and the public.

◆ **Ready for whatever's next**

Every municipality is different. But strong systems, automated reporting, and shared knowledge are what help finance teams weather change and stay on track. Future-proofing doesn't mean you can predict what's coming. It means you won't fall behind when it does.

Written By: Laurinda Brown

Client Solutions Manager, Vivid Reports

Ready to automate reporting? Ready to turn over? Ready to turn over to someone else?

Learn more at www.vividreports.com

Two Part Series

Financial Leadership

in the Public Sector

WEBINAR 2025

May 8, 2025

IN-PERSON

June 4, 2025

PRESENTED BY

DARREN LIVINIU

gfoaalberta

Deloitte.

Take your leadership skills to the next level with this two-part series presented by Darren Livinik from Deloitte Canada—tailored for today's municipal finance pros.

Part 1 – Webinar | May 8 | Online

Register now: <https://gfoaalberta.ca/financial-leadership-public-sector/>

Part 2 – Post-Conference In-Person

June 4 | 12:30 PM | Lunch included

Conference Add-on: <https://shorturl.at/fv3B3>

Wrap up your GFOA Alberta Conference experience with an in-person deep dive into financial leadership.

✓ Earn CPA verifiable professional development credits

✓ Attend one or both—no need to attend the webinar to register for part 2.

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REGULAR 595

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