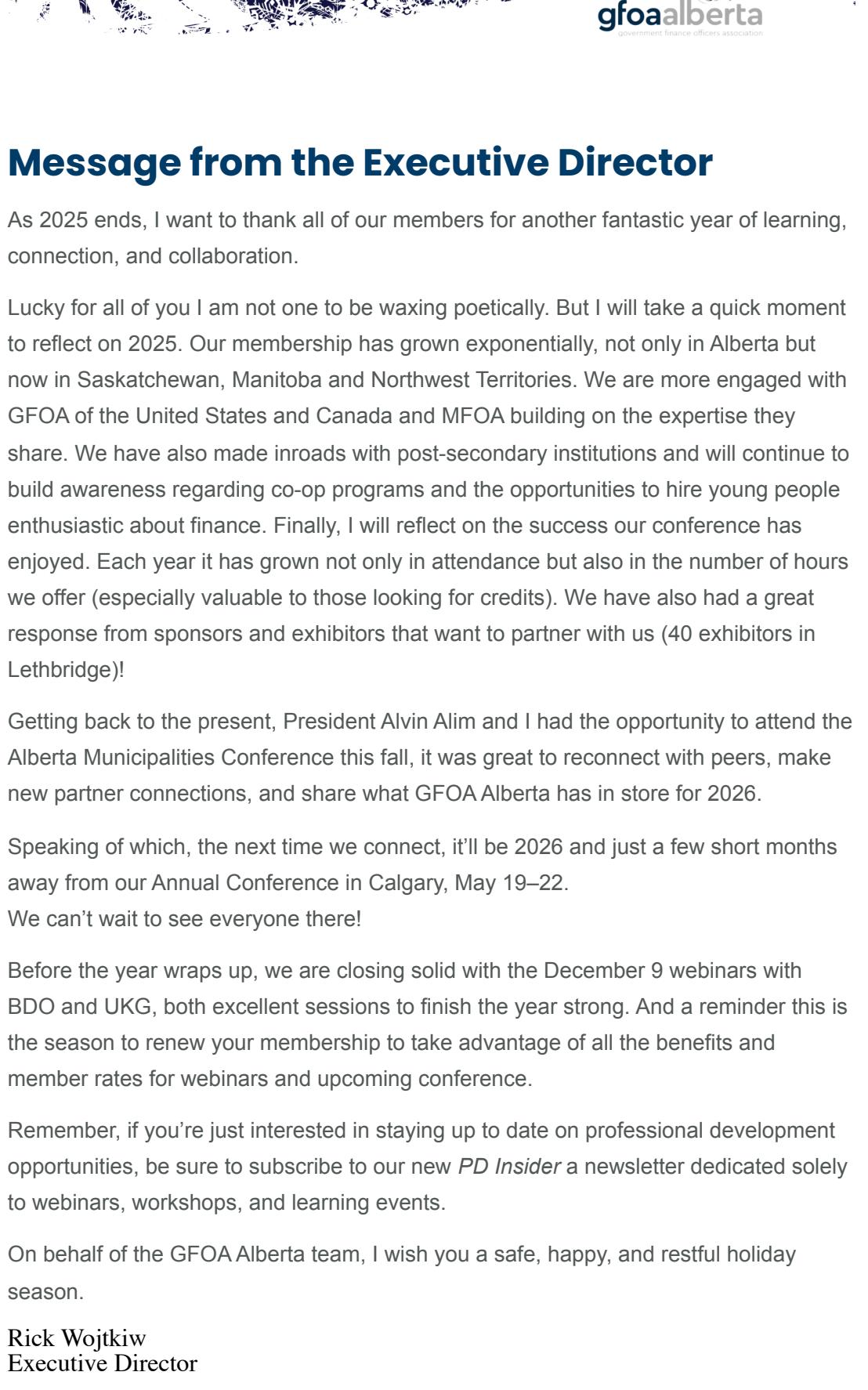


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government finance officers association
**GENERAL
LEDGER**
Monthly e-Newsletter



Message from the Executive Director

As 2025 ends, I want to thank all of our members for another fantastic year of learning, connection, and collaboration.

Lucky for all of you I am not one to be waxing poetically. But I will take a quick moment to reflect on 2025. Our membership has grown exponentially, not only in Alberta but now in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northwest Territories. We are more engaged with GFOA of the United States and Canada and MFOA building on the expertise they share. We have also made inroads with post-secondary institutions and will continue to build awareness regarding co-op programs and the opportunities to hire young people enthusiastic about finance. Finally, I will reflect on the success our conference has enjoyed. Each year it has grown not only in attendance but also in the number of hours we offer (especially valuable to those looking for credits). We have also had a great response from sponsors and exhibitors that want to partner with us (40 exhibitors in Lethbridge)!

Getting back to the present, President Alvin Alim and I had the opportunity to attend the Alberta Municipalities Conference this fall, it was great to reconnect with peers, make new partner connections, and share what GFOA Alberta has in store for 2026.

Speaking of which, the next time we connect, it'll be 2026 and just a few short months away from our Annual Conference in Calgary, May 19–22.

We can't wait to see everyone there!

Before the year wraps up, we are closing solid with the December 9 webinars with BDO and UKG, both excellent sessions to finish the year strong. And a reminder this is the season to renew your membership to take advantage of all the benefits and member rates for webinars and upcoming conference.

Remember, if you're just interested in staying up to date on professional development opportunities, be sure to subscribe to our new *PD Insider* a newsletter dedicated solely to webinars, workshops, and learning events.

On behalf of the GFOA Alberta team, I wish you a safe, happy, and restful holiday season.

Rick Wojtkiw
Executive Director



Beyond The Buzz Webinar: Dec 9

Just when we think we've got the people side of work (mostly) figured out, along comes AI to shake things up! For many in public sector HR and leadership roles, AI can feel both exciting and overwhelming. However, the truth is that we've already been using AI for years, often without realizing it. In this engaging and down-to-earth discussion, we'll demystify AI and explore what it truly means for the future of municipal workplaces. Whether you're just starting to explore the basics or already using AI in your day-to-day work, this session will blend practical knowledge with a touch of fun, demonstrating how AI can support hiring, engagement, and workforce planning in ways that are ethical, human-centered, and purposeful.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

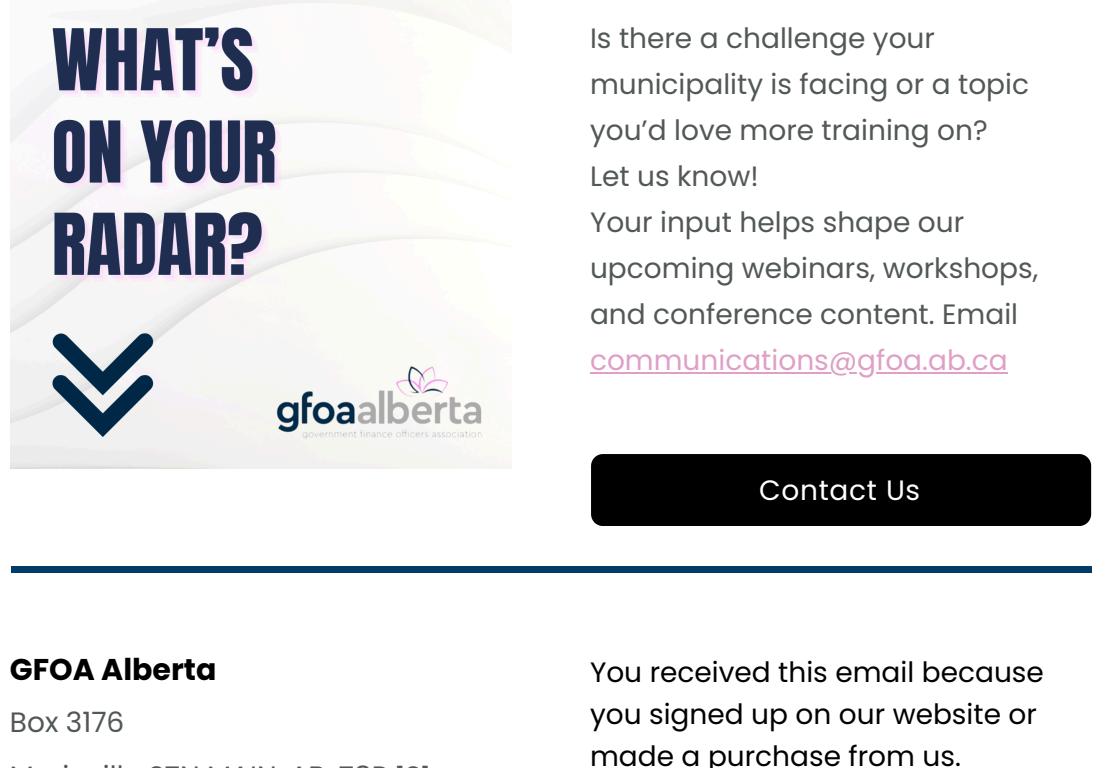
■ Understand core AI concepts including machine learning and automation and how they connect to everyday workplace challenges.

■ Explore real, practical examples of how AI can enhance key moments in the employee lifecycle, from recruitment to retention.

■ Identify simple tools, prompts, and use cases that can make municipal HR processes more efficient and effective.

■ Recognize the ethical considerations and guardrails that ensure AI remains a force for good in public sector organizations.

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Investment Policy Development: Jan 15

The Investment Policy Statement (IPS) is a document that provides guidance for the investment objectives, restraints, and parameters for the creation and management of a municipality's investment portfolio. The IPS is the blueprint for the municipal investment management process. By clearly laying out all relevant goals, guidelines, and restrictions, a well-written IPS equips the investment manager to build a portfolio that maximizes return while minimizing risk. Additionally, an important benefit of an IPS is the layer of objectivity that it adds to the investment process.

Participants can expect to:

- Learn from industry leading specialists who have created policies for over 100 Canadian municipalities and institutions

• Learn how the IPS sets the framework for how municipal funds are managed, including legal constraints, risk tolerance, and permitted investments

• Gain the knowledge needed to evaluate whether investment decisions align with the policy, empowering staff to provide effective oversight and promote responsible stewardship of public funds

• Discover how a well-crafted IPS supports long term financial planning by aligning investment goals with municipal priorities (e.g., liquidity needs, capital projects), leading to more sustainable and efficient use of resources

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What's On Your Radar?

Sample Municipal Policies

We've added a collection of sample municipal policies to our website, free for members to download and adapt.

If your municipality has a great policy to share, please send it to communications@gfoa.ab.ca and help your peers across Alberta.

Professional development that fits your inbox.

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