



Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to a new year with GFOA Alberta! We're excited for what lies ahead in 2026. We have a strong slate of professional development opportunities planned over the coming months, including webinars, the CRA series, and our **new Bootcamp sessions** covering AI and Excel, designed to deliver practical, relevant learning for finance professionals at every level, and all while earning CPD credits.

Hopefully you all had a rejuvenating holiday break and braved the weather to celebrate with friends and family. My new year's resolution this year is to get better at pretending to know the words to "Auld Lang Syne".

Annual membership renewal emails were sent on January 2, and we sincerely thank everyone who has already renewed. This year also marks an exciting enhancement to member value, with the option to add a GFOA of the US and Canada partnership at a significant discount. This partnership gives GFOA Alberta members expanded access to international learning, research, and networking, while strengthening the professional community you're part of.

We're also looking ahead to our Annual Conference in Calgary, May 19–22, and it's already shaping up to be another exceptional event. Watch for conference registration opening soon. New this year, we'll be offering a pre-conference workshop, and please note that the conference schedule runs Tuesday to Friday. With Monday being a statutory holiday, it's the perfect opportunity to use that day as a travel window.

Also, remember if you get a group together for training we would be happy to arrange a speaker and provide group rates to make it easier on your training budget.

Thank you for your continued support, engagement, and commitment to excellence in municipal finance. We look forward to a productive, collaborative, and inspiring year ahead with you.

Rick Wojtkiw
Executive Director

ONLINE WEBINAR

Investment Policy Development

 **Jan 15, 2026**
10:00 - 11:00AM

REGISTER

 www.gfoa.ab.ca



Presented by
James Hobson & Charet Chahal



Investment Policy Development: Jan 15

The Investment Policy Statement (IPS) is a document that provides guidance for the investment objectives, restrains, 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 to 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

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

new!

BOOTCAMP SERIES





Two NEW 4-Part Bootcamps:


- **Excelling in Excel**
- **Everyday AI**

Starting January — practical training.

NEW Bootcamp Series!

 **NEW for 2026: GFOA Alberta Bootcamp Series Starts in January!**
You asked for more hands-on, skill-building training and we listened. This January, we're launching two practical 4-part Bootcamps designed to build confidence and real-world capability.

 **Excelling in Excel (4-Part Series) STARTS JAN 13**
From fundamentals to power-user skills using municipal finance examples. Learn to structure data, build formulas, analyze information, and take first steps toward workflow automation.

 **Everyday AI (4-Part Series) STARTS JAN 27**
A gentle, beginner-friendly introduction to AI for everyday life. Build confidence, explore safe and responsible use, and understand how AI can support communication, organization, and creativity.

These bootcamps are short, accessible, and member-requested, perfect for individuals and teams.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

HISA News from Alberta Municipalities

As the transition from Canadian Western Bank (CWB) to National Bank continues, National Bank is still finalizing a self-service option for participants to access their HISA statements directly.

In the meantime, to ensure there's no disruption, we will continue to email your monthly statements as usual – please see attached for the December statement. There are no changes to the deposit or withdrawal process – please continue using the existing forms available on Synergy.

MUNICIPAL FORUMS

What a great turnout we had to the forums, engaging discussions, problem solving, such solid community of finance professionals.

Watch for the next Municipal Forum dates in early 2026





SAVE THE DATE: Municipal Forums 2026

GFOA Alberta is pleased to host the next round of Municipal Discussion Forums. The virtual Forums provide the opportunity for participants to ask questions and share information with their municipal colleagues.

Municipalities Over 10K: February 18, 2026 from 10:00am – 11:30 am.

Rurals: February 18, 2026 from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.

Municipalities Under 10K: February 18, 2026 from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.

GFOA will be sending out a link to the complimentary registration prior to the forum date and a forum agenda will also be sent out once completed.

NOW MEMBERS GET EVEN MORE!

NEW PD WEBINAR SCHEDULE


January 15, 2026	Hobson & Chahal CIBC	Investment Policy Development
January 22, 2026	Michael Monk CRA	Interest and Penalty with Michael Monk
February 5, 2026	Michael Monk CRA	Intro for Municipalities About Non-Profit Organizations
February 12, 2026	Renee Pichard Deloitte	Sustainability reporting in the Public Sector – What you need to know
March 10, 2026	Trevor Butler Tantus	Cyber Security
April 10, 2026	Ian Howatt & Maureen Parker Elevate The Path	Leadership and Accountability in the Public Sector

BOOTCAMP SERIES *new!*

January 13, 2026	GFOA Alberta	Excelling in Excel" Bootcamp Part One Foundational Skills
January 27, 2026	GFOA Alberta	Everyday AI" Bootcamp Part One First Steps with AI



WHAT'S ON YOUR RADAR?



Does your team have a training need?

Is there a challenge your municipality is facing or a topic you'd love more training on? Let us know!

Your input helps shape our upcoming webinars, workshops, and conference content. Email communications@gfoa.ab.ca

Contact Us