

Government Finance Officers Association  
of the United States and Canada

# Committee Highlights!

Committee on Canadian Issues (CCI)

City of St. John's, Newfoundland • January 21-22, 2005

Co-Chairs Janice Baker and Stan Westby welcomed the committee to the City of St. John's for the 13th meeting since the committee's inception in San Francisco in 1998 (the seventh held in Canada). The committee met for two days on January 21-22.

On the first day, the committee met for informational sessions and roundtable discussions. First the City of St. John's staff updated the committee on topics such as the economic overview of the city and the harbor cleanup project. Next the committee members briefed each other on interesting financial matters occurring in their communities. Roger Galipeau and Patrice Martin also updated the CCI on the progress of the 2006 GFOA Montréal conference. For the final agenda item for the day, a significant amount of time was allocated to the presentation and discussion on the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountant's (CICA) tangible capital asset project. Tim Beauchamp, from the CICA, updated the committee on the project and asked for

*(continued on page 2)*

## Join us in San Antonio!

**Tuesday, June 28 • 3:50 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.**  
**Canadian Issues Update**

Members of the Committee on Canadian Issues will lead a discussion during GFOA's annual conference on the challenges that face the committee and its future objectives. They will discuss the most recent accomplishments of the committee and its efforts to increase the links with other organizations in Canada. This discussion group will provide Canadian finance officers the opportunity to discuss their ideas and concerns with committee members.

*Discussion leaders:* **Len Brittain**, Director of Corporate Finance, City of Toronto, Ontario

**Jo-Anne L. Ferrier**, City Treasurer, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Roger Rosychuk**, Finance Manager, City of Edmonton, Alberta

**Lloyd Russell**, Director of Financial Services and City Treasurer, City of Ottawa, Ontario

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

What's Happening Coast to Coast	3
PASB Update	3
Canadian Receives GFOA Scholarship	6
Canadian Participants in GFOA Awards Programs	7
Information on Employment Ads	8

### COMMITTEE ON CANADIAN ISSUES (CCI)

Stan Westby — CCI Co-Chair, *District of Powell River, BC*

Andrew Beckett — *Saint John, NB*

Robert Bishop — *St. John's, NF*

Karen Bittner — *Saskatchewan Watershed Auth.*

Len Brittain — *Toronto, ON*

Terry Corrigan — *Vancouver, BC*

Del Dyck — *St. Albert, AB*

Jo-Anne Ferrier — *Winnipeg, MB*

Bruce Fisher — *Halifax, NS*

Roger Galipeau — *Montréal, QB*

Chris Good — *Calgary, AB*

Ray Goruick — *Whitehorse, YK*

Paul Macklem — *Kelowna, BC*

Jacques Marleau — *Montréal, QB*

Roger Rosychuk — *Edmonton, AB*

Lloyd W. Russell — *Ottawa, ON*

Michael Ruta — *Winnipeg, MB*

Ed Sykora — *District of Central Saanich, BC*

Steve Zorbas — *Burlington, ON*

GFOA Staff Members: Stephen Gauthier  
Jim Phillips

**The next CCI meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 25, 2005, in San Antonio, in conjunction with GFOA's annual conference.**

# Committee on Canadian Issues — Cont'd. from page 1

feedback from the members, which was discussed in great detail by committee members.

## Update on Various Issues

Stan Westby introduced the committee's new member, Ed Sykora, who is the director of financial services for the District of Central Saanich.

Stan Westby also briefed the committee on the most recent activities of GFOA's Executive Board. The review of a member survey by the Executive Board and an article relating to Cook County, Illinois' application of the GFOA YieldAdvantage were some of the topics discussed.

## Standards Task Force

Jo-Anne Ferrier, the co-chair of the Standards Task Force, led the review of additional GFOA's recommended practices to determine their applicability to Canadians. The committee approved an additional recommended practice relating to accounting, auditing, and financial reporting as applicable to Canadians. Jo-Anne Ferrier also updated the committee that all of the debt management recommended practices have been reviewed for approval by the committee. The recommended practices that have been approved by the committee are in the Canadian section on GFOA's Web site.

Jo-Anne Ferrier reviewed a proposed work plan for the CAnFR program, which was developed by Karen Bittner. After an analysis of the proposed work plan, the committee has decided that it will assist in identifying significant Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) guidance that is currently not clear in the recommendations of PSAB. The significant items will be included in the reviewer's checklist, so that participants and outside reviewers in the program will be aware of them.

## Professional Development Task Force

Mike Ruta, the co-chair of the Professional Development Task Force, updated the committee on the efforts to identify

potential speakers and topics for the 2005 GFOA annual conference. Committee members were asked to recommend additional Canadian speakers.

Len Brittain, the co-chair of the Professional Development Task Force, briefed the CCI on the status of the study teams, the Innovative Revenue Sources Study Team, and the Infrastructure Study Team. He also discussed with the committee the potential of GFOA YieldAdvantage being implemented in Canada.

## Advocacy & Communications Task Force

Roger Rosychuk and Lloyd Russell will be the new co-chairs for the Advocacy & Communications Task Force. A report was circulated to the committee members which included the objectives of the task force. Among the items discussed, was the promotion of the 2006 GFOA Montréal Conference and the preconference Canadian day.

## Other Business

The committee brought forward several potential items for the pre-conference Canadian day at the 2006 GFOA Montréal Conference, all of which will be discussed further at the committee's meeting in San Antonio.

The committee examined its options for its response to the tangible capital asset reporting project being developed by PSAB. After a lengthy discussion, the committee decided that a task force will be established to coordinate the drafting of a response. The draft will be submitted to the committee for approval, which will then be forwarded to PSAB.

The Canadian discussion group session at the GFOA Conference in San Antonio was discussed. The GFOA Conference in Montréal will be one of the topics covered.

Stan Westby acknowledged past members John Rop and Keith Dowdall for their efforts. 🍷

---

## Join us to Celebrate GFOA's 100th Anniversary!

Attend GFOA's 2006 Annual Conference in Montréal  
May 7-10, 2006

The CCI is planning a Canadian preconference day at the  
GFOA Montréal annual conference.

For more details: [www.gfoamontreal2006.org](http://www.gfoamontreal2006.org).

---

# What's Happening Coast to Coast

## ALBERTA

### Relief in Sight for Alberta Cash-strapped Municipalities

Edmonton, like most municipalities in Canada, is feeling a funding crunch. On the plus side, there's the continuing strong growth of our economy (projected at 3.2 per cent per year for the next five years) and a projected population increase of 34,000 over the next five years. On the other side of the ledger are the service and infrastructure challenges inherent in keeping pace with growth without placing an onerous burden on civic ratepayers.

And Edmonton (again like many other municipalities), has been beating the drum asking for assistance and alternate forms of funding from the two other orders of government. The Province of Alberta is heeding the message. The unveiling of this year's provincial budget included the announcement that the City of Edmonton will receive more than \$677 million of the \$3 billion available provincewide, over the next five years. The intent is for the money to go to infrastructure, based on a per capita formula. In addition, the province has agreed to fund (and perhaps transfer) emergency medical services from municipalities to the health units under provincial jurisdiction. This amounts to annual savings of more than \$12M in our operating budget and further savings in our capital budget.

The new Provincial funding, as well as the Federal New Deal proposal, demonstrates that the provincial and federal governments are beginning to recognize the issues municipalities face. This is a good start, however municipalities will need to continue pressing for ongoing sustainable funding to address the significant challenges ahead.

*Contributed by Roger Rosychuk, finance branch manager, City of Edmonton (780/496-5120; roger.rosychuk@edmonton.ca) for forwarding this article from the Alberta GFOA newsletter.*

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Vancouver Agreement Renewed for Second Five-Year Term

By Western Economic Diversification Canada

The governments of Canada, British Columbia, and Vancouver have announced that the Vancouver Agreement, an innovative urban development initiative, will be renewed for a second five-year term lasting until March 2010. The Vancouver Agreement represents a new way for governments to work together and with business and community groups in order to promote and support economic and social investments in the community. The

*(continued on page 5)*

---

## PSAB Update (Spring 2005)

### PSAB Proceeding to Issue Exposure Draft on Segmented Reporting for Governments

In October, 2004, the Public Sector Accounting Board issued a Statement of Principles (SOP), including a proposed draft Public Sector Accounting (PSA) Handbook Section on *Segment Disclosures* for all levels of governments. There has been an underwhelming response to the SOP, particularly from local governments. Although the deadline for responding to the SOP has passed, there will still be an opportunity to make comments on the exposure draft due to be released sometime in the spring/summer of 2005.

#### *Why is this important to you?*

The new standards will add a layer of detail to the preparation of the annual summary financial statements. The task force members focused on the cost to prepare infor-

mation versus the benefits, but in the end concluded that additional disclosures about different segments are important and consistent with meeting the needs of users outlined in the PSA Handbook sections PS 1000 and PS1700.

#### *Where did the need for segmented disclosure come from?*

The issue of segmented disclosure came out feedback received during the reporting entity project for federal, provincial, and territorial governments. The new definition of the government reporting entity captured a number of organizations not previously reported in the summary consolidated financial statements. There was concern about the level of aggregation in summary financial statements and the need for some type of supplementary disclosure about major segments to meet the needs of users of those statements when these new organizations are consolidated into the summary financial statements.

# PSAB Update — Continued from page 3

## *What is the scope of the application of the new standards?*

Although the impetus for the segmented financial statement project arose from the reporting entity project for senior levels of government, the task force felt it was also applicable to local governments, especially since the reporting model for this group was changing as well. With this in mind, the task force has purposively made the standard significantly flexible enough in terms of defining segments, etc., such that it would accommodate preparers in all three levels of government.

## *What are the objectives of segmented disclosure?*

The task force identified six objectives that segmented disclosure was meant to achieve:

- Help users identify the operating and capital resources allocated to support the major activities of the government;
- Help users make more informed judgements about the government reporting entity and about its major activities;
- Help users better understand the manner in which the government is organized and how the government discharges its accountability obligations;
- Enhance the transparency of financial reporting;
- Help users better understand the performance of the segment and the government reporting entity; and
- Help users better assess future net cash flows.

## *Are standards around segmented disclosures unique?*

No. There is a considerable body of literature on segmented disclosure for both the private sector here in Canada as well as the public sector internationally. The task force built upon these standards in developing the proposal for Canadian governments.

## *What is the definition of a segment recommended in the SOP?*

The task force developed the definition of a segment to incorporate flexibility to allow governments to define segments in a way that is meaningful to the readers of their financial statements and relevant to all levels of government. The elements to be considered when defining segments include:

- There is a distinguishable activity or group of activities;
- That the services or group of services provided are simi-

lar with the segment;

- That discrete financial information is or should be reported separately; and
- That information is used to evaluate the government's past performance in achieving its objectives and for making decisions about the future allocation of resources.

Considering these elements, the final definition is "a segment is a distinguishable activity or group of activities of a government for which it is appropriate to separately report financial information to the objectives of [the segmented disclosure section] . . ." The task force believes it is a matter of judgment as to the number of segments to report. The task force also felt that the starting point for identifying segments would be the major classifications or activities used in creating and managing the government's budget.

## *Once segments are defined, what are the disclosure requirements?*

Information to be included in notes or schedules to summary financial statements should include:

- The basis for identifying segments, the nature of segments and the activities they encompass;
- Segment expense by major object or category;
- Segment revenue by source and type;
- Total carrying value of assets for each segment;
- Total carrying value of liabilities for each segment;
- Total expenditures for additions to tangible capital assets for each segment;
- Aggregate of the investments in and net surplus (deficit) of government business enterprises and government business partnerships accounted for under modified equity method for each segment, if applicable; and
- Reconciliation between the information disclosed for segments and the consolidated information in the summary financial statements.

The task force recognizes that there may be difficulty in making allocations for segments for reporting purposes. Where an item can be directly attributable to a segment or where it can be allocated on a reasonable basis, it is appropriate to do so. 🇨🇦

*Contributed by Terry Corrigan, director of financial services, Vancouver, BC (604/873-7225; terry\_corrigan@city.vancouver.bc.ca).*

# What's Happening — Cont'd. from page 3

Agreement's first focus is the revitalization of the city's Downtown Eastside, particularly encouraging local business attraction and retention, secure and safe housing, and support for residents with addiction and mental health issues.

"In its first five years, the Vancouver Agreement has made a significant contribution to social and economic initiatives that are helping to revitalize the city's Downtown Eastside and improve the lives of residents," said the Honourable Stephen Owen, federal Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport). "The Government of Canada is proud of this partnership with the provincial and city governments and is committed to continuing to support locally driven solutions that make Vancouver a thriving, safe and healthy city."

The Vancouver Agreement is also contributing to major initiatives like the redevelopment of Woodward's, a sea-wall-to-seawall pedestrian and cyclist link from False Creek through Chinatown and Gastown with the Carrall Street Greenway, the operation of North America's first supervised injection site, and improved social housing.

"The Vancouver Agreement is a national model for urban development," said Mayor Larry Campbell. "Working closely with community and non-profit groups and the business community, the federal, provincial, and city governments are showing that with will and commitment, we can respond to community challenges by changing how governments work together and with business and the community. Renewal of the Vancouver Agreement not only strengthens the Downtown Eastside and the city as a whole, but is a positive and exciting development for the province and the country."

In September 2004, the Institute for Public Administration of Canada awarded its highest annual prize for innovative public service management to the Vancouver Agreement for innovation and creativity in governance, particularly for moving to a horizontal model from traditional silo-based governance.

## 2005

# Western Canadian GFOA Conference

### Improving Your Odds ~ A Numbers Game

**Whitehorse, Yukon**

**September 14 - 16, 2005**

For additional information, contact: Susan Schooley, manager, communications, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Vancouver, BC; Tel: 604/666-1318; e-mail: susan.schooley@wd.gc.ca

Provincial Government: Marisa Adair

City of Vancouver: Jennifer Young

Vancouver Agreement: Jean Kavanagh, 603-802-5729

## Municipal Finance Authority Maintains 'AAA' Status

By Standard and Poor's

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services has affirmed its AAA long-term issuer credit and senior unsecured debt ratings on the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFABC). At the same time, Standard & Poor's affirmed its A-1+ short-term global scale and its A-1 (High) Canadian national scale CP ratings on the authority.

The MFABC is the highest rated, stand-alone pooled financing entity in Canada. "The authority benefits from a high degree of credit uplift (relative to the aggregate credit quality of constituent pooled borrowing members), which is based primarily on its liquidity and timely access to the entire provincial local property tax base, including

(continued on page 6)

## Check Out the Canadian Page of GFOA's Web Site

Just double-click on the Canadian flag on [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org) to find the Canadian page. Among other items you will find on this page are:

- recommended practices approved by the Committee on Canadian issues as being applicable to Canadians
- the latest issue of *Canadian Finance Matters*
- background information on the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting (CANFR)
- Committee on Canadian Issues information

## What's Happening — Cont'd. from page 5

the City of Vancouver,” said Standard & Poor’s credit analyst Paul Calder. The ratings on the MFABC reflect the Province of British Columbia’s high level of financial support, particularly for the smaller and more rural municipalities that have a lower level of own-source revenues compared with urban municipalities.

The authority also has a high level of available liquidity in the form of its debt reserve fund (DRF), capital repayment equalization fund, and unencumbered credit facilities. It also has indirect and slightly less timely access to municipal member financial resources via the authority’s ability to levy local taxes to replenish any draw from its DRF, something which has never occurred.

The outlook on the MFABC primarily reflects a significantly increasing debt burden in the next few years to fund an ambitious capital infrastructure program, primarily in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). Major projects related to transit, transportation, and water and sewer system upgrades will cause the GVRD’s indebtedness to increase further in the short term, although new revenue sources could mitigate the debt increase to some extent. Fulfillment of the projected borrowing profile, capital program cost overruns, and weakness in the generation of incremental funding sources to finance the expanded capital program could exert potential downward pressure on the ratings. The outlook also reflects Standard & Poor’s expectation that provincial grant support for weaker MFABC loan obligors will continue.

### **Nanaimo Recognized as a Leader in the Adoption of Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure**

By City of Nanaimo

The Governing Council for the National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure (InfraGuide) has honoured Nanaimo for its commitment and support for the use of innovative approaches to delivering sustainable community infrastructure.

InfraGuide brings together engineers, planners, scientists,

and municipalities to find better ways to build manage and maintain community infrastructure within a fiscally responsible and environmentally sustainable framework while preserving quality of life. These better ways are collected into Best Practice documents for decision-making and investment planning, drinking water, storm and wastewater, roads, environmental protocols, and transit.

Infrastructure is the “highway” along which cities like Nanaimo delivers essential services, such as drinking water, transportation, and sewage and storm water collection. Most Canadians give little thought to the infrastructure that their quality of life depends on until a water main breaks, their sewer backs up or a road becomes impassable. The risk of such events is increasing. Canada needs a broad infrastructure strategy that addresses gaps in resources, identifies opportunities to improve the policy and standards framework for delivery, streamlines the legislative framework, and finally pushes for Canadian technology and innovation solutions.

The City of Nanaimo is a leader in the adoption and use of this uniquely Canadian endeavour. Nanaimo City Council passed a resolution supporting the Guide on January 24, 2005. “Some of Nanaimo’s infrastructure was built in the early 1900s,” says Mayor Gary Korpan. “Funded by the Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Program, the \$14 million Old City Infrastructure Grant project has taken us a long way in replacing this old infrastructure, but we still have a way to go. As stewards of this infrastructure, municipalities must adopt a philosophy of continuous improvement and use the best available technologies and practices to provide municipal services. By supporting the InfraGuide, Nanaimo is committing to share its knowledge and expertise and benefit from the wealth of knowledge across Canada.”

#### ***About InfraGuide***

In 2001, the federal government through its Infrastructure Canada Program and the National Research Council (NRC), joined forces with the Federation of Canadian

*(continued on page 8)*

---

## **Canadian Wins GFOA’s Greathouse Accounting Scholarship**

The 2005 Frank L. Greathouse Government Accounting Scholarship was awarded to Bongsun Cho-MacDonald, an undergraduate student in accounting at Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Ms. Cho-MacDonald has worked as an accountant with the Municipal Services Division of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. As part of her work, she participated in a project to reform the statement of estimates to Public Sector Accounting Board standards and to ensure conformance with CICA accounting standards. She plans to seek employment as a chartered accountant with the Nova Scotia provincial government.

GFOA’s Frank L. Greathouse Government Accounting Scholarship recognizes outstanding performance in accounting undergraduate programs and encourages careers in state and local government finance. Cho-MacDonald will accept the \$3,500 award at GFOA’s annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, and will participate as GFOA’s guest in the three and one-half days of conference activities, June 26-29.

# Canadian Participants in GFOA's Awards Programs

## Canadian Award for Financial Reporting (CAnFR)

### *CAnFR Winners*

GFOA's Canadian Award for Financial Reporting (CAnFR) is designed to encourage the highest standards of financial reporting for Canadian governments.

Jurisdictions interested in receiving more information about the award or individuals interested in serving as reviewers for the program should contact Jim Phillips in GFOA's Chicago office (312/977-9700; JPhillips@gfoa.org).

Congratulations to the following jurisdictions for receiving the CAnFR for fiscal years ended in 2003: City of Calgary, AB; City of Edmonton, AB; City of Grande Prairie, AB; City of Lethbridge, AB; County of Lethbridge, AB; City of Medicine Hat, AB; Parkland County, AB; City of St. Albert, AB; Capital Regional District, BC; City of Abbotsford, BC; District of Campbell River, BC; City of Coquitlam, BC; City of Kelowna, BC; Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge, BC; City of Port Alberni, BC; City of Richmond, BC; Sunshine Coast Regional District, BC; City of Surrey, BC; City of Yellowknife, NT; City of Burlington, ON; Corporation of the City of Brampton, ON; Regional Municipality of Durham, ON; Corporation of the Town of Markham, ON; City of Mississauga, ON; Corporation of the Town of Oakville, ON; Regional Municipality of Peel, ON; Regional Municipality of York, ON; City of Montreal, QB; and City of Regina, SK.

### *CAnFR Reviewers*

Volunteers are very important to the process of designating the award winners and GFOA would like to recognize those reviewers who dedicate many hours to the CAnFR program: Tim Beauchamp, lead principal, Canadian Institute of Chartered Accts., Toronto, ON; Mark Beauparlant, manager, Accounting, City of Mississauga, ON; Bernie Chandler, senior manager, Deloitte & Touche, Toronto, ON; Robert Correll, principal, Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, Toronto, ON; Julia Duff, manager, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Victoria, BC; Harold Hurlen, deputy treasurer--finance svc., Township of Langley, BC; Glen Jarbeau, director of finance, City of St. Albert, AB; Paula Jesty, partner, Deloitte & Touche, North York, ON; Archie Johnston, audit partner, KPMG, New Westminster, BC; Normand Lefebvre, deputy chief accountant; City of Montreal, QB; Helen Leskiw, director of financial services, City of Edmonton, AB; Estelle Lo, general manager, Corporate Services, City of Vancouver, BC; Sandy O'Reilly, coordinator of accounting, City of Burlington, ON; David L. Muir, partner, Collins Barrow, Ottawa, ON; Jake Sorba, director of finance, Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge, BC; Stan Westby, chief administrative officer, District of Powell River, BC; Betty Wong, controller and manager of accounting, City of Burlington, ON.

## Popular Annual Financial Reporting Awards

GFOA's Popular Annual Financial Reporting program is designed to encourage governments to prepare and issue annual financial reports specifically tailored to meet the needs of citizens and others without specialized expertise in accounting and financial reporting. These reports are intended to supplement, rather than replace, comprehensive annual financial reports.

The following Canadian jurisdictions have received GFOA's Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award for the fiscal year ending in 2003: City of Abbotsford, BC; District of Maple Ridge, BC; and City of Yellowknife, NT.

Jurisdictions interested in receiving more information about the award should contact Jim Phillips in GFOA's Chicago office (312/977-9700; JPhillips@gfoa.org).

## Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards

GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards program is designed to encourage governments to prepare budget documents of the highest quality to meet the needs of decision makers and citizens. Jurisdictions or individuals interested in receiving more information about the award should contact John Fishbein in GFOA's Chicago office (312/977-9700; JFishbein@gfoa.org).

Congratulations to the following Canadian jurisdictions receiving the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award: Edmonton, AB; Lethbridge, AB; Coquitlam, BC; Kelowna, BC; Langley, BC; Port Coquitlam, BC; Surrey, BC; Whistler, BC; Winnipeg, MT; Yellowknife, NT; Burlington, ON; Markham, ON; Mississauga, ON; Oakville, ON; Peel, ON; and Montréal, QB.

The following Canadians served as reviewers for the budget awards program: Steven Fairweather, director of financial services, City of Cambridge, ON; Steve Zorbas, city treasurer, Burlington, ON; Lucie Rouillard, professor, Université Du Quebec; and Vivienne Wilke, general manager, finance technology & human resources, City of Surrey, BC. 🌟

## What's Happening — Cont'd. from page 6

Municipalities (FCM) to create the National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure (InfraGuide). The development of the InfraGuide through Government of Canada support is fostering the creation of an extensive municipal infrastructure network of excellence and set of best practices. To date, the Guide has published 29 best practices. The reports are available online and in print. For more information or to become involved in the Guide process, please visit [www.infraguide.gc.ca](http://www.infraguide.gc.ca) or call the Guide toll-free at 866/330-3350.

### **InfraGuide Best Practices:**

- Planning and Defining Municipal Infrastructure Needs
- Developing Indicators and Benchmarks
- Developing Levels of Service
- Alternative Levels of Service
- Alternative Funding Mechanisms
- Establishing a Metering Plan to Account for Water Use and Loss
- Assessment and Evaluation of Storm and Wastewater Collection Systems
- Timely Preventive Maintenance for Municipal Roads
- Guidelines for Sealing and Filling Cracks in Asphalt Concrete Pavements
- Strategic Commitment to the Environment by Municipal Corporations
- Accounting for Environmental and Social Outcomes in Decision Making

*Special thanks to Stan Westby, chief administrative officer, District of Powell River (604/485-8618; [swestby@cdpr.bc.ca](mailto:swestby@cdpr.bc.ca)) for forwarding these articles from the BC CivicInfo.*

## **MANITOBA**

### **News from the City of Winnipeg ...**

#### **MTS Centre Officially Opens**

In November, the MTS Centre officially opened for operations in the heart of Winnipeg's downtown on Portage Avenue. Home to the Manitoba Moose AHL Hockey Club, the facility drew more than 14,000 fans to each of its first two games. Part of Winnipeg's plan for re-development of the downtown, the facility will be hosting many popular concerts and events over the next year. The facility included grants from each level of government as contributions towards construction but is privately owned. Over the next 18 months the city will be demolishing the Winnipeg Arena and has agreed to dispose of the remaining land on which the arena resided for 50 years.

#### **Mayor Unveils Public Use Facilities Study**

A consultants' report covering more than 300 city-owned public use facilities was made public recently. The report

recommends a long-term strategic vision for the city's recreation, leisure and library services.

#### **Red Tape Commission Launched**

In November, Mayor Katz launched a Red Tape Commission, which will review civic procedures and processes, regulations, and by-laws. Its mandate will include identifying measures to reduce red tape, recommend elimination, streamlining, or consolidation, in order to create overall regulatory common sense and a Winnipeg that is open for business. The commission will be chaired by a member of Council with members from the private sector.

#### **Winnipeg recognized for its Budget Presentation**

Winnipeg was presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the city's 2004 to 2006 budget documentation. The city is one of only a few municipalities in North America that prepares a three-year operating budget as well as a capital budget with a six-year horizon.

#### **Water Quality a Priority in City's Capital Budget**

Water coming into our homes and cleaner water going back into the river systems are all big-ticket items in the city's capital budget. The city plans to spend \$370 million on its sewage disposal system and \$249 million for its water system over the next six years, part of which is to meet provincial mandates. The capital budget totals \$1.3 billion over the next six years with \$303.5 million for 2005. The capital plan continues to avoid new external debt for tax-supported programs, which will be funded on a pay-as-you-go basis.

*Contributed by Jo-Anne Ferrier, city treasurer, City of Winnipeg (204/986-2186; [jferrier@winnipeg.ca](mailto:jferrier@winnipeg.ca)); and Michael Ruta, corporate controller, City of Winnipeg (204/986-7986; [mruta@winnipeg.ca](mailto:mruta@winnipeg.ca)).* 

## **Employment Ads**

Advertising rates for Employment Opportunity listings are \$150 per position/insertion for active GFOA members; \$250 per position/insertion for associate members; and \$500 for nonmembers. All ads must be prepaid. Order forms to place an ad are required and can be downloaded from GFOA's Web site. Please send ads paid by check and credit card to GFOA, Dept. 77-3076, Chicago, IL 60678-3076. To ensure that your ad is received, please fax a copy of all ad materials to 312/977-4806. Ads also will be posted to GFOA's Web site ([www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org)) and the Canadian section on GFOA's Web site for a period of two weeks.