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GFOA COMMITTEES

The Committee on Canadian Issues

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The Committee on Canadian Issues (CCI) is unique among GFOA's standing committees. It is tasked with helping GFOA meet the needs of its Canadian members, giving the U.S.-based association's staff the guidance and input needed to better serve its international members. Just as GFOA's strategic roles shift to meet the ever-changing needs of its membership, CCI's role also shifts as our Canadian members' needs evolve over time. CCI's members, however, are always guided by a shared and sustained desire for:

1. Providing Canadian context and perspective,
2. GFOA-sponsored training on Canadian-relevant issues, and
3. A unified voice to help inform Canadian fiscal policy.

The committee is made up of 12 members and one advisor. Its co-chairs are Catherine Brubacher, general manager of corporate services and city treasurer, City of Brantford, Ontario; and Tanya Garost, chief financial officer, District of Lake Country, British Columbia.

Providing Canadian context and perspective

There are more similarities than differences when it comes to public finance in the United States and Canada, but it is not always obvious where things diverge. GFOA's resources are made stronger by the Canadian context and perspective provided by members of CCI. Committee members are local government employees who also participate in local and provincial

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membership groups. They identify the resources and best practices that are applicable on both sides of the border and provide the terminology and context needed to make these critical resources useful for Canadian finance officers. With the committee's input, GFOA is growing to serve and support Canadian public finance professionals—either directly, as GFOA members, or indirectly, through their association with one of our partner associations—with a more inclusive and broadly applicable library of materials.

The committee is exploring new avenues for strengthening GFOA's impact in Canadian public finance. CCI is considering new, Canadian-specific best practices, and is seeking out opportunities for joint research projects between GFOA and Canada-based peer organizations.

The Canadian public finance officers who make up the committee also want to identify new networking opportunities that GFOA can facilitate among its Canadian members and their U.S.-based counterparts. We may be separated by miles/kilometres, but our goals are held in common: things like building resilient and thriving communities, striving for transparency and public engagement, and cultivating trust in public finance are not restricted by borders.

GFOA-sponsored training on Canadian-relevant issues

GFOA's staff currently participates in Canadian associations' conferences (such as GFOA of British Columbia; Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario) and often speaks at local events.

GFOA's staff continues to work with provincial and regionally based local government membership associations to help identify the questions asked by local governments. These are always changing, but staff have recently spoken about GFOA's ethics initiative and building up trust with the communities they serve. GFOA's growing focus on asset management means that GFOA staff have worked

to connect governments from across North America to learn from and make use of each other's experience and advice on how to make better infrastructure investment decisions.

CCI is also exploring the potential for adding a Canadian module to GFOA's newly redesigned Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) professional certification program. This would help Canadian finance officers who wish to receive official recognition for their skillset, and it would also help local governments in Canada identify job candidates with the ability to foster thriving communities.

A unified voice to help inform Canadian fiscal policy

While it hasn't historically been an area of focus, CCI recognizes the need for a unified voice across provinces in advocating for issues that affect local government finance in Canada. With CCI helping to identify opportunities, GFOA and the committee can build relationships with peer organizations, provincial associations, media, and academia to create opportunities to advocate at the federal level about issues that affect local government finance.



In 2020, GFOA partnered with the Canadian Network of Asset Managers to help build and support the Asset Management Competency Framework for Canadian Communities. The 12 competencies provide guidance for how to implement an asset management program for your organization.

More information, including the full framework, can be downloaded at gfoa.org/materials/cnam-framework.