

[View this email in your browser](#)



Executive Director Message

Hello GFOA Alberta Members,
Time is flying by – I can't believe it is August already!

We have begun work on the 2024 conference that will be hosted in Edmonton at Fantasyland Hotel June 2-6, 2024, and we are scouting some facilities next week for 2025 and 2026 locations.

We have some great online learning opportunities for you starting in September. GFOA Alberta is partnering with Metrix, PSD Citywide and Deloitte to bring you trending, timely and valuable content to support your work in municipal government. It is one of our top priorities to provide quality professional development opportunities to our members and access to 'Online Member Only' tools to provide further networking, discussion, and engagement.

Follow this [link](#) for information about the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' 2022-23 Annual Report. Included in the report is the results of a survey conducted regarding unpaid oil and gas property taxes. Also, check out the latest increase to Alberta Municipalities HISA product.

In closing, a friendly reminder that the GFOA Alberta website is an excellent place for you to advertise any vacancies that your organization may have in the finance department. We are seeing an increase in traffic to our website and on social media platforms.

Big shoutout to Metrix, this month's newsletter sponsor; check out their article in this edition "The push to move to new ERP systems."

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and make time for things that make your soul happy (auction sales and trying to figure out golf)!

Sincerely,
Rick Wojtkiw
GFOA, Executive Director

GENERAL LEDGER Monthly e-Newsletter

Sponsor of the Month



ARO Accelerator Program

ARO ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

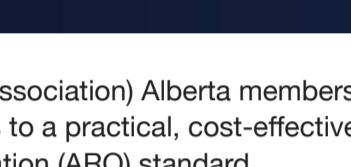
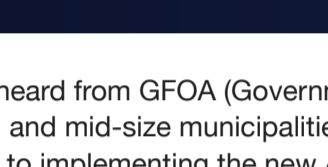
A practical, cost-effective approach to implementing the new Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO) standard.



Luke Wilson, MBA, CPA, CA



Darren Liviniuk CPA, CA



REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

We have heard from GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) Alberta members like you that small and mid-size municipalities critically need access to a practical, cost-effective approach to implementing the new Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO) standard.

Deloitte and GFOA Alberta have partnered to develop an innovative "Group Golf Lesson" approach to the ARO Implementation – the ARO Accelerator Program. This will involve bringing Municipal Finance Officers together through a combination of group and individual exercises to pool the cost of implementation support.

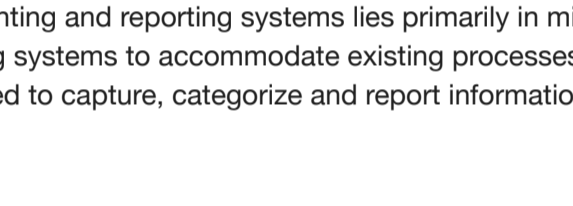
General ARO Accelerator: Program Details

We will work with groups of up-to 10 Municipalities through a 12-week ARO Accelerator. The Accelerator will guide the members through the end-to-end ARO process, including access to predefined templates, group workshops, and one-on-one support.

Over the 12 weeks, the members will attend regular sessions and complete both pre- and post-session activities. The sessions will cover the key content, include discussions on key challenges experienced in the activities, and have a designated time for questions and answers.

If Deloitte's ARO Accelerator Program sounds like it could be of benefit to your Municipality, please register [here](#) by September 8, 2023.

FEATURED ARTICLE



The push to move to new ERP systems

A common topic of conversation in the municipal space is accounting software. Whether you are actively planning to replace your accounting system or not, it's a good idea to start planning for it now.

The challenge

The biggest barrier to efficient accounting and reporting systems lies primarily in mindset. Shifting from a mindset of configuring systems to accommodate existing processes to one of leveraging how the system is designed to capture, categorize and report information will transform your finance department.

Plan with the end in mind

A complete re-structuring of your chart of accounts should be considered once a new system is chosen. While most systems can accommodate any account structure, best practice is to understand how the system captures and reports information and then design the account structure. This will ensure the building blocks within the account string will most effectively leverage the system's capabilities.

Document processes

It is truly eye-opening to step back and see your processes on paper (yes, paper!). Taking the time to document and understand your current processes is the foundation for configuring a new system, and it allows you to identify 'quick win' process improvements that will provide immediate benefits.

Determine timelines

Understand the vendor's plan for future support and enhancements of your existing software, what functionality you have now and what you will need in the future to help determine if/when it makes sense to replace your existing system. Knowing when the organization intends to replace a system will give you lead time to prepare and determine whether further investments in the existing system makes sense.

Engage stakeholders

Connect with people across the organization to understand what information they need, what is working well and where pain points exist. This can help identify how to improve existing reporting and processes as well as requirements for a new system.

As part of this work, ensure to identify what are critical and optional requirements for new software.

Do your research

There are many options available when choosing new accounting software – taking the time to research before starting the RFP process will lead you to better decisions during the selection process. Many modern accounting systems do not have specialized municipal modules such as property taxes and utilities, thus a fully integrated system may not be feasible.

The best part about working in the municipal space is that we are a community, not competitors. Many municipalities have gone through this process and are willing to share their experiences, so leverage your network throughout the decision process.

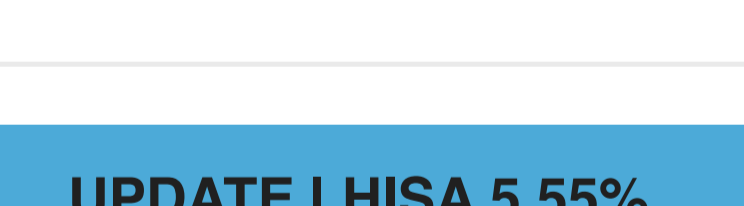
Written By: Stephanie Porter, Associate, Metrix Group LLP

Webinar Series Hosted by Metrix Group

ONLINE WEBINAR New Accounting Standards

SEPT 21 10AM

This course is eligible for 1.5 hours hour of CPA verifiable professional development



CONTACT

PROGRAMS@GFOA.AB.CA



UPDATE | HISA 5.55%

Talk to our team today

310.MUNI | HISA@abmunis.ca

High-Interest Savings Account offered by Alberta Municipalities The HISA interest rate has gone up again to 5.55% with the Prime rate.

Career Postings

The GFOA Alberta website is regularly updated with job opportunities in the public sector finance industry in Alberta! Check out the most recent postings.

- [Senior Accountant, Community & Protective Services \(CPS\)](#)
- [Records Management Technician](#)
- [Manager of Finance](#)

[Check out more Career Postings Across Alberta](#)

To post an opportunity in your municipality, click on the 'Resources' tab of our website, and then select 'Post a Position'. If you have any questions, please [contact us](#) for support.



LinkedIn Twitter Facebook Website Email Instagram

About GFOA Alberta:

- Formed in 1979.
- Offer annual conferences and training opportunities for networking and professional development.
- Today our organization boasts over 1,200 members and serves a pivotal role in ensuring the financial well being of local government in our province.