

GFOA Organizations

There are several different GFOA organizations operating in Canada, each with its own constitution, mandate and governance structure. There is actually no direct legal or formal link between the different organizations - membership in one does not give you membership rights in the others. However, they are all there to serve you in different ways.

At the Provincial level, you may be served by your provincial association. In BC, Alberta and Ontario, there are sophisticated full-service organizations which offer professional development sessions, annual conferences and a range of other services to their members. They each have their own membership structure (either corporate or individual) and are governed by an elected board. Saskatchewan has an unincorporated GFOA group that holds a one-day annual conference.

At the Regional level, the GFOA of Western Canada, now known as WCGFOA, concentrates its energy on holding a regional conference focused on national issues. Membership is free for individuals and the organization is governed by an elected board with up to two members from each province.

At the International level, the GFOA of the United States and Canada is a large organization serving the whole of North America. Headquartered in Chicago, they have more than 18,000 members and offer many services including an annual conference for several thousand delegates, advisories on best practices, a wide range of publications as well as extensive training and consulting services. Any local government can join – membership fee is based on size. They are governed by an 18-member executive board with 2 positions reserved for Canadian members, one each from eastern and western Canada.

All of these organizations are members of the GFOA family, working together to strengthen the GFOA brand and serve local government finance officers in Canada.