



## MFOA’s Virtual Annual Conference Conference Schedule and Session Information

Preliminary conference schedule, including session information and speakers.

**Check back frequently for updates! (Updated as of Friday, July 31 2020)**

### Pre-Conference Sessions

The Pre-Conference sessions will feature live Q&As with our speakers. These sessions will be recorded and available for playback. More sessions to be added in the coming days!

*Note: Schedule is subject to change.*

| Speakers  | Broadcast Date and Time with Live Q&As | Session Description   |
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| Jessica Jaremchuk<br>Director, Risk Management Services<br>Frank Cowan Company  | August 25<br>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM        | <p><b><u>Fraudulently Induced Transfer – A Growing Concern for Municipalities</u></b></p> <p>Fraud today had become much more sophisticated and complex with fraudulently induced transfer crimes (otherwise known as social engineering) trending in today's marketplace. We see the news headlines across the county. What is this costing municipalities? Typically, social engineering falls into a gap between your cyber and crime policies. Do you know if you're covered? How do you educate staff? These issues and more will be addressed in our session.</p>   |
| Martin Galczynski<br>Manager, Financial Planning & Policy<br>City of London<br><br>Zeina Nsair<br>Manager, Financial Modelling, Forecasting & Systems Control<br>City of London | August 26<br>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM        | <p><b><u>Public Engagement through a Multi-Year Budget: City of London’s Second Journey</u></b></p> <p>In 2019, the City of London embarked on its work to develop, table and approve its second four-year Multi-Year Budget. A vital part of this process included and continues to include the development and delivery of public engagement activities focused on the municipality’s budget. Join us for this session as representatives from the City of London share with you the process of development and implementation of their public engagement activities, including a summary of approach, what worked well, what didn’t, and where their respective plan goes forward as they continue through their budget cycle and relevant engagement journey.</p> |



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| <p>Ontario Municipal Tax &amp; Revenue Association (OMTRA)</p>                 | <p>August 27<br/>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</p> | <p><b><u>Conversations that Connect: COVID-19 Actions and Reactions</u></b></p> <p>Join panelists from the Ontario Municipal Tax &amp; Revenue Association (OMTRA) for a discussion that examines how municipalities are facing the very real municipal revenue implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. This session will share the experiences of small, medium and large Ontario municipalities as they develop plans to re-open municipal facilities, how collection processes have changed, revenue implications and strategies for long-term recovery plans. Additional topics include a coverage of how traditional payment methods may change, how municipalities are managing the collection of water arrears, and forecasting payment and default rates, and adjusting user fee revenues.</p> <p>Panelists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casey Brendon, Director, Revenue Services Division, City of Toronto</li> <li>• Clayton Pereira, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Budgets and Planning at Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville</li> <li>• Maureen Zabiuk, Manager of Property Tax and Assessment, City of Vaughan</li> <li>• Wendy Stephanson, Chief Financial Officer, City of Ottawa, and</li> <li>• Connie Mesih, Director, Revenue &amp; Materiel Management, City of Mississauga</li> <li>• Moderated by Steven Radenic, Supervisor, Assessment Base Management, Town of Milton</li> </ul> |
| <p>Peter Frise<br/>Vice President<br/>Municipal Tax<br/>Equity Consultants</p> | <p>August 27<br/>2:00 PM - 3:00 PM</p>  | <p><b><u>Property Tax: A Reorientation and Look Forward</u></b></p> <p>When 2020 began, the big news in property tax was that we were going into the final year of the assessment cycle and starting to prepare for the reassessment that was on the horizon. The need to pivot to other issues and challenges came on quickly. Like the original intent for this session, the property tax agenda of early 2020 is largely irrelevant at the moment.</p> <p>So, rather than a reassessment refresher, we will look at where 2020 has taken us, where it has left us and where we</p>  |



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|   |   | <p>might go from here with regards to every municipality’s largest revenue source. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A look back at the challenges and solutions that evolved during 2020;</li> <li>• Considering longer term relief, deferrals and/or transitional property tax measures for residents and business (or not);</li> <li>• What we might want to see and not want to in terms of Provincial policy measures;</li> <li>• How the “taxation” status of the property tax may be more important now and why we may want to look at non-tax revenue sources a little differently in an uncertain era; and</li> <li>• Considering what the reassessment looks like in a post COVID real estate reality and what the pause means for 2021</li> </ul> <p>The overall objective of this session will be to provide Municipal Finance Officers with a foundation on which to consider and reflect where 2020 has taken and left their local property tax regime and how to plot a strategic path forward.</p> |
| <p>Jeff Oberman<br/>President<br/>Realtax</p> <p>Mary MacCullum<br/>Tax Sale Consultant<br/>Realtax</p> | <p>September 1<br/>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</p> | <p><b><u>Tax Sales: Post-Lockdown Considerations</u></b></p> <p>The lockdown and suspension of timelines has raised a number of issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns about delaying tax sales</li> <li>• Concerns about proceeding with tax sales</li> <li>• Social distancing at tender openings and auctions</li> <li>• Recalculating deadlines—which ones were suspended, which ones were not</li> </ul> <p>Please join us for an informative presentation and question and answer period.</p>  |
| <p>Bailey Church<br/>Partner,<br/>KPMG</p>  | <p>September 2<br/>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</p> | <p><b><u>Asset Retirement Obligations</u></b></p> <p>Municipalities are facing an unprecedented change in the Public Sector Accounting standards. The ARO standard is a year away, as are the new standards on revenues and financial instruments. PSAB is also advancing on a final standard for public private partnerships, and a new conceptual framework and reporting model. Is your</p>   |

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|  |                                   | municipality ready for this substantial; change in reporting demands?   |
| John Murray<br>General Manager,<br>Asset Management<br>Strategy &<br>Performance<br>PSD – Research<br>Consulting<br>Software | September 3<br>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | <b><u>How To Build Asset Management Maturity While Working Towards O.Reg. Compliance</u></b><br>Over the next few years, Ontario municipalities have the opportunity to build lifecycle and risk frameworks in tandem with completing their AMPs, which will standardize levels of service. This ensures the AMP itself is more comprehensive, while also allowing the municipality to minimize corporate risk, extend the life of assets, define a level of service, and derive greater value for money through their infrastructure investments.  |
| Craig Binning<br>Partner<br>Hemson Consulting<br>Ltd.<br><br>Russell Mathew<br>Partner<br>Hemson Consulting<br>Ltd           | September 8<br>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | <b><u>What Municipal Finance Officers Need to Know About Planning</u></b><br>Over the past several decades, the Province of Ontario has experienced rapid growth, placing pressure on municipal services and infrastructure and ultimately, revenue sources. Managing growth in an effective manner requires an understanding of how municipalities plan for development in the context of demographic, economic and social characteristics, while also balancing strategic council policies. Importantly, recent changes to the Development Charges Act and Planning Act now require a greater level of coordination and understanding between municipal finance and planning departments in order to facilitate development charges (DCs) and community benefits charges (CBCs), which are key revenue sources for communities. This session will provide municipal finance officers with an understanding of growth management principles in Ontario and the related implications on municipal finance activities. |
| Beverly Hendry,<br>CAMA<br>Treasurer/Board<br>Member-At-Large,<br>CAO, Township of<br>West Lincoln                           | September 9<br>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | <b><u>Political Acuity (based on the CAMA Political Acumen Toolkit)</u></b><br>“Recommending the unacceptable is not a great way for a public servant to make a living.” – Peter Wallace former City Manager of Toronto on recommending tax rate increases to Council.  |

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|  |  | <p>The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) was pleased to launch its Political Acumen Toolkit in 2019. This online toolkit supports CAOs, direct reports and the next generation of leaders that are already in local government jobs and provides advice on the following topics: Administration &amp; Council, Residents &amp; Ratepayers, Inter-municipal, Provincial, Federal, and Media.</p> <p>A change in Council, Provincial government or public opinion can present challenges and opportunities. A strategic finance officer who is aware of the political context (“power structures, motivations and influences in the municipal decision-making process”) within which she/he operates can learn to redirect resources to seize opportunities. In demonstrating that you understand Council, the Province and the public’s concerns, you can also build the trust you need to make inroads on the challenges. This session will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a high-level overview of the toolkit and positively managing Council, Federal/Provincial, and Public relationships;</li> <li>• the importance of political acuity and the role that it plays in the day-to-day dealings of local government;</li> <li>• - tips to help you succeed and survive the challenges and unexpected situations presented by elected officials.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Carmelo Lipsi<br/>Vice President and<br/>Chief Operating<br/>Officer<br/>MPAC</p> <p>Mary Dawson-Cole<br/>Director, Municipal<br/>and Stakeholder<br/>Relations (Acting)<br/>MPAC</p> | <p>September 9<br/>2:00 PM - 3:00 PM</p> | <p><b><u>MPAC – Valuing Ontario Together</u></b></p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic tested and strengthened MPAC’s partnership with municipalities and our commitment to supporting you. We are taking a future oriented approach to support, with a focus on new cost effective ways to collect and share data while also meeting our service level standards. Join us to learn how we will come out of this crisis a more agile and resilient organization that impartially values over 5 million properties in Ontario.</p>  |



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| <p>Gary Scandlan<br/>Director and<br/>Managing Partner<br/>Watson &amp;<br/>Associates<br/>Economists</p> | <p>September 15<br/>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</p> | <p><b><u>Water and Wastewater Services – Dealing with the Financial Impacts of COVID-19</u></b><br/>         COVID-19 and its associated measures are having a significant impact on people and businesses. Municipalities are no exception. All orders of government have been demonstrating leadership, providing relief, and stability to citizens while continuing to provide vital services. Some municipalities have and are looking at options to provide ratepayers with financial relief through billing deferrals, suspension of interest and penalties on overdue receivables, delay/reduce DC payments, etc.<br/>         The MFOA session will discuss some options for expenditure and revenue management along with a discussion of the short/medium term impacts these options may have on the Water/Wastewater utility. Topic areas include: expenditure policy options, rethinking your reserve funds, short-term/long-term debt considerations, rate reductions, financial implications, and more...</p> |
| <p>Jamie Black<br/>President<br/>F.H. Black &amp;<br/>Company<br/>Incorporated</p>                        | <p>September 17<br/>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</p> | <p><b><u>Best Practices in Communicating Financial Information</u></b><br/>         Annual Reports and Budget Books are large, complex documents. They attempt to communicate a lot of information to the reader either about the past or outlines of plans for the future. This information is of critical importance if council and senior management are to make the right decisions. This presentation will provide examples of what can go wrong when data isn’t communicated well. It will outline some of the best practices designed to ensure that your financial reports provide as much valuable information in as useful a format as possible.</p>  |



MFOA’s Virtual Annual Conference  
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Virtual Annual Conference - September 22 - 25, 2020

Schedule is subject to change.

| Tuesday, September 22 |   |
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| Time                  | Session Information   |
| 8:00 am – 12:30 pm    | <p><u>Ethics Workshop</u><br/> <b>Speaker:</b> Shayne Kavanagh, Senior Manager of Research, GFOA US<br/> <i>Satisfies mandatory 4-hour CPD ‘Ethics’ requirement outlined by CPA</i></p> <p>GFOA’s new code of ethics outlines the values that are essential to building trust in our communities, but putting these values into action can sometimes be difficult. In fact, ethical tragedies are often the result of people who sit silently on the sidelines afraid or uncertain of what to do about a transgression. In this session, you will learn a distinctive new approach to these situations called “Giving Voice to Values” by discussing real-life scenarios of ethical challenges that have occurred in governments.</p> |
| 10:00 am – 10:15 am   | Networking Break and Connect with Exhibitors/Sponsors   |

| Wednesday, September 23 |   |
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| Time                    | Session Information   |
| 8:00 am – 11:00 am      | <p><u>Updates Session</u><br/> <b>Speakers:</b> TBC<br/>           Hear the latest and greatest updates pertaining to the topics of significant interest to municipal finance officers. Speakers will provide updates of key changes that occurred earlier in 2020, as well as current developments, and what's coming down the pipe in the near future. Don't miss this one-stop session for your sector-relevant updates!</p> |
| 9:45 am – 10:00 am      | Networking Break and Connect with Exhibitors/Sponsors   |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm     | <p><u>Discussion Forums by Municipality Size</u></p> <p>Collaborate, discuss and engage in meaningful discourse with other similar-sized municipalities. Ask questions, share information and discuss issues affecting your municipality. This is an informal discussion forum designed to benefit you.</p>   |



## MFOA’s Virtual Annual Conference Conference Schedule and Session Information

| Thursday, September 24 |  |
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| Time                   | Session Information  |
| 8:00 am – 9:15 am      | <p><b>Opening Keynote - Everything is About to Change</b><br/> <b>Speaker:</b> Doug Griffiths, President of 13 Ways Inc. and Bestselling Author, 13 Ways to Kill Your Community</p> <p>Disruptions have impacted almost every industry, but our communities have remained relatively unchanged in the last 50 years. Until now, 2020 has changed everything, and Doug has spent his life in government and emergency management to help guide communities through this. There are some simple tools that Doug Griffiths can provide to help audiences navigate through change and uncertainty.</p> <p>Your audience will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Feel shock about the change coming to their community;</li> <li>● Understand why they and others resist change, even when it is inevitable;</li> <li>● Realize the greatest challenge to their community/organization is in not being prepared;</li> <li>● Focus on what they can control</li> <li>● Engage their community to feel the positive changes undertaking to deal with uncertainty</li> <li>● Learn to address every element of a community that is affected by these changes</li> </ul> |
| 9:15 am – 9:45 am      | <p><u>Social Equity and the Budgeting Process</u><br/> “Local and regional government has the ability to implement policy change at multiple levels and across multiple sectors to drive larger systemic change.” - Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race &amp; Equity</p> <p>For many the question is: where do I begin? Following a short plenary session, join one of three forums to discuss: (a) data collection opportunities and challenges; (b) bringing equity into the budgeting process; and (c) leading transformational change at your organization.</p>   |
| 9:45 am – 10:00 am     | Networking Break and Connect with Exhibitors/Sponsors  |
| 10:00 am – 11:00 am    | <p><u>Discussion Forums: Social Equity and the Budgeting Process</u></p> <p>Join one of three forums to discuss:</p>   |





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|                     | <p>Topic 1: data collection opportunities and challenges</p> <p>Topic 2: bringing equity into the budgeting process</p> <p>Topic 3: leading transformational change at your organization.</p> |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | MFOA’s “What Have We Done For You Lately” / AGM / Awards Ceremony   |

| Friday, September 25 |  |
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| Time                 | Session Information  |
| 8:00 am – 9:15 am    | <p><u>BMO Economic Update</u></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Doug Porter</p> <p>In this session, we will review the current trends in the provincial economy with a focus on the implications for Ontario municipalities, both large and small.</p>  |
| 9:15 am – 10:00 am   | ‘Hot Topic’ session  |
| 10:00 am – 10:15 am  | Networking Break and Connect with Exhibitors/Sponsors  |
| 10:15 am – 11:00 am  | Discussion Forum: Speed Round  |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm  | <p><b>Closing Keynote - The Artistry of Change: The Top 3 Habits of Highly Resilient People</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Carla Rieger, CEO, The Artistry of Change Consulting Inc.</p> <p>When most people face unexpected change, they tend to get reactive, problem-focused and defeated. Yet, it’s hard to rebuild and reinvent an organization, if you can’t shift how you’re viewing a situation. After 11 years of research, we have identified the top 3 habits of people who stay solutions-oriented, centered and agile in the face of unexpected change.</p> <p>We call these people “Change Artists”. The skills of a Change Artist don’t actually need to be learned. They are innate skills that you just need to remember to access. These habits of mind require little or no time or money, and simply train your brain to stay in a high-performance state, no matter what.</p> <p>During this entertaining, interactive and practical presentation you will discover how to:</p> |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● think more resourcefully when faced with seemingly impossible challenges</li><li>● help others move from a reactive to a solutions-oriented response when change hits</li><li>● create a culture of innovation in which open communication and engagement are the norm</li></ul> <p>The Artistry of Change® is an innovative system that blends diverse fields such as educational kinesiology, western and eastern psychology, change management theory, creative process models, and neuroscience. These fields are merging in exciting ways to produce what we call the indispensable 'Change Artist' who can bring your organization to the next level of effectiveness and excellence.</p> <p>Experience the power of creating a culture of innovation - a celebration of your work and those you serve.</p> |
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