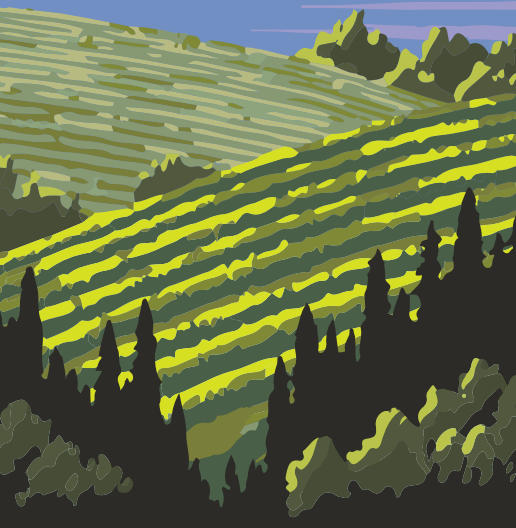




**Excellence in Local Government:
Organizations Supporting Vibrant
Communities in British Columbia**



This book is meant to introduce and increase awareness of the activities and services performed by the participating organizations in support of local governments in British Columbia.



**Excellence in Local Government:
Organizations Supporting Vibrant Communities in British Columbia**

INTRODUCTION











Administering local governments in British Columbia is a complex and vitally important task. Strong leadership is required to ensure inclusive, safe and economically prosperous communities.

A number of independent organizations exist in the province whose mandates are to provide important services and support to local governments. This book is the product of a collaborative effort between participating organizations. It is meant to introduce and increase awareness of the activities and services performed by the organizations in support of local governments.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

 <p>Union of British Columbia Municipalities Est. 1905 "The Common Voice"</p> <p>P. 1</p>	 <p>Local Government Management Association of British Columbia Est. 1919 "The Professional Development Specialists"</p> <p>P. 2</p>
 <p>Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Province of British Columbia Est. 1934 "The Province"</p> <p>P. 3</p>	 <p>Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia Est. 1970 "The Finance Experts"</p> <p>P. 7</p>
 <p>BC Assessment Est. 1974 "The Valuation Specialists"</p> <p>P. 9</p>	 <p>Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia Est. 1987 "The Insurance People"</p> <p>P. 11</p>
 <p>Government Finance Officers Association of British Columbia Est. 1989 "The Money Managers Association"</p> <p>P. 13</p>	 <p>CivicInfo BC Est. 2000 "The Information People"</p> <p>P. 15</p>
 <p>Integrated Cadastral Information Society Est. 2001 "The ICI Society"</p> <p>P. 17</p>	 <p>Local Government Leadership Academy Est. 2006 "The Leadership Academy"</p> <p>P. 19</p>

Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)

EST. 1905



UBCM advocates for the common interests of local government in British Columbia and administers funding programs that address local government needs.



ENACTING LEGISLATION

Union of British Columbia Municipalities Act

MANDATE

UBCM works with other orders of government to represent the common interests of local governments.

HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE

UBCM has represented the diverse interests of BC local governments since it was established in 1905.

Local governments are vested with powers and authority through provincial legislation. They are also subject to a range of federal and provincial regulatory regimes. UBCM works with other orders of government to develop, refine and improve the legislative and regulatory frameworks that relate to local government. Our aim is to ensure that local governments have the powers and resources necessary to meet local needs.

As a voluntary member-based organization, UBCM was created through the initiative of BC local governments. The founding concept was that local governments in BC needed a single voice for matters that affect all communities. In time, UBCM was empowered through a provincial statute to be the point of contact for the Province in its consultations with local government.


UBCM's membership, which currently includes all local governments in BC and eight First Nations, gathers at an annual convention to debate and identify matters of common interest. Resolutions are sponsored by a community and vetted at regional area association meetings sanctioned by UBCM. The resolutions process, along with surveys, advisory groups, and research provide UBCM with the policy basis for its advocacy and consultation with other orders of government.


UBCM's 21-member board is elected at the annual meeting. The composition of the Executive is designed to ensure representation from all regions and reflect the demographics of the province. The Executive meets quarterly throughout the year and seeks to implement member-supported policies through a robust, long-term approach to government relations and advocacy. Our aim is to work directly and constructively with other orders of government.


In addition to its work as the recognized advocate of local government, UBCM provides a range of services to its membership, including the administration of federal and provincial funding programs and a group benefits program. A secretariat of twenty-five, based in offices in Richmond and Victoria, support the ongoing work of UBCM.


HOW TO CONTACT UBCM


CONTACT INFORMATION

 Suite 60 - 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

 ubcm.ca

 (604) 270-8226

 twitter.com/ubcm

 ubcm@ubcm.ca



PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Policy and Advocacy

- Statutory representative of local government in British Columbia.
- Hosts an annual convention through which local governments identify common issues and shared priorities.
- Executive working groups and committees cover a broad range of policy areas, including environment, community safety, indigenous relations, economic development and healthy communities.

Program Administration

- Administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund, which will deliver close to \$5 billion for BC community infrastructure projects by 2024.
- Administers several provincially funded grant programs that support healthy communities, public safety and First Nations relationships.

Communications

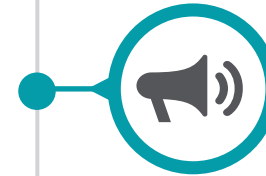
- Distributes a weekly email newsletter for local government that covers issues of broad interest.

Member Services

- Manages a Group Benefits program for 110 local governments and coordinates services such as bulk fuel purchasing.

Local Government Representation

- Provides a local government voice through appointments to a range of entities, including the Board of Examiners, the Order of BC and the Public Sector Employers' Council.
- Appoints representatives to permanent committees such as the Municipal Pension Board of Trustees, the BC Board of Directors and the Land Title Survey Authority.



HISTORY

1905

Established through local government convention in New Westminster.

1919

Membership endorses call to establish the Local Government Management Association.

1959

Incorporated by provincial statute.

1987

Membership recommends creation of Municipal Insurance Association of BC.

1999

Funds study that leads to the creation of CivicInfo BC.

2003

Community Charter receives assent.

2004

Begins administration of provincial funding programs.

2005

Identifies need that leads to the creation of the Local Government Leadership Academy.

2005

Begins administration of the Federal Gas Tax Fund in BC.

Local Government Management Association of British Columbia (LGMA)

EST. 1919



The LGMA ensures our communities and their elected officials have access to the very best professional advice by offering best-in-class training, professional development and networking for local government professionals.



MANDATE

Since 1919, the LGMA has provided local government professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to be successful and more effective in their jobs. In an ever-changing world, the LGMA exists to foster innovative professional development and training that ensures local government professionals are well equipped to serve the needs of their communities.


The LGMA is a not-for-profit professional association of nearly 1,000 municipal and regional district managers, administrators, clerks, treasurers and other non-elected senior government officials responsible for the daily operations of BC's municipalities and communities. The LGMA has six chapters across the province; these chapters provide support and training that address the unique needs of local government professionals in their regions.


HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE

When local government professionals get involved with the LGMA (whether as members, volunteers or program participants), they are joining a supportive community committed to peer-to-peer learning. Professionals enrolled in our accredited training programs not only learn from recognized experts in their fields, but they also learn alongside their counterparts from communities across the province, gaining an instant peer support network. These collaborative relationships are further reinforced in LGMA's training programs and workshops, webinars, international exchange program, and countless other networking and professional development opportunities throughout a professional's career. Whether a local government professional is in their first year on the job or their thirty-first, the LGMA has a program to support their professional development.


HOW TO CONTACT LGMA


CONTACT INFORMATION


 710A-880 Douglas St.
Victoria, BC V8W 2B7

 (250) 383-7032

 office@lgma.ca

 lgma.ca

 twitter.com/LGMABC

 linkedin.com/company/lgmabc

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Education and Professional Development

LGMA education and professional development programs, workshops and online learning train local government professionals in the specific technical requirements of their jobs so that they can adapt and respond to new legislation or emerging technologies and practices that may affect citizens in their communities.

Accredited programs, such as our Municipal Administration Training Institute (MATI®), provide training and education on statutory officer requirements, community planning, human resources, approval of subdivisions, communication skills, leadership and management, and the fundamentals of local government administration.

Professional Networking

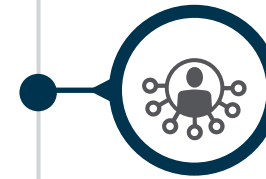
The LGMA provides opportunities for local government professionals across BC to come together to exchange best practices and to develop innovative solutions to today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

Local Government Resource Materials

High-quality professional resource materials (e.g., toolkits, manuals, guides) are produced by the LGMA to meet the needs of local government professionals and assist them in solving challenges facing their communities. One example of this is the LGMA's partnership with Elections BC, the ministry responsible for local government, and legal experts specializing in local government legislation to provide an elections manual, which ensures all BC local governments have technical and practical advice and best practice guidelines for conducting municipal elections.

Peer-to-Peer Learning

Through the LGMA, local government professionals receive access to training from leading experts from across BC and Canada. The LGMA's workshops, webinars and programs are delivered by specialists actively working in local governments and the municipal field, and they are selected for their experience, knowledge and innovative practices.



HISTORY

A history of partnership:

From its founding, partnership has been the cornerstone of the LGMA's success as a professional organization. It works closely with the 9 partners who contributed to this booklet, as well as provincial partners including Asset Management BC, Planning Institute of BC, Public Works Association of BC, Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and BC Municipal Safety Association, plus a range of others, including partners across Canada.

1919

Founded in 1919 by resolution of the Union of BC Municipalities, the LGMA (then called the Municipal Officers' Association of BC), was formed "for the purpose of interchange of ideas and the more efficient performance of [municipal officers'] duties."

1969

During the LGMA's 50th anniversary in 1969, the organization described its history as "a story of hard-working, dedicated committee members who met regularly to address many important issues of importance to the professional development of its members."

1986

The LGMA launched its first Municipal Administration Training Institute (MATI®) program, titled *Operation and Overview of Local Government*. Since 1986, more than 3,000 local government professionals have taken a MATI course.

2011

Collaboration has been the driving force behind the LGMA's organizational growth and achievements as a professional association. In fact, the LGMA has received international recognition through invitations from the United Nations and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to present its model globally.

2019

The LGMA celebrates 100 years of serving local governments and their communities at its annual conference.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Local Government Division – Province of British Columbia (MAH)

EST. 1934



Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing takes leadership in supporting local governments, not-for-profit organizations and residents to build vibrant and healthy communities that are well governed, liveable, safe, economically resilient, and socially and environmentally responsible; and provides British Columbians with access to more affordable, safe and functional housing through policy and programs, technical codes and standards, and services for landlords and tenants.



ENACTING LEGISLATION

On behalf of the provincial government, the Local Government Division is primarily responsible for the following legislation:

- *Community Charter*
- *Islands Trust Act*
- *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*
- *Local Government Act*
- *Local Government Grants Act*
- *Local Services Act*
- *Municipal Finance Authority Act*
- *Resort Associations Act*
- *Resort Municipality of Whistler Act*
- *University Endowment Land Act*
- *Vancouver Charter*

MANDATE

Ministry Responsible for Local Government

Within the provincial government, there is always a ministry responsible for the core local government system and its legislative framework. This ministry develops the legislative framework for local governments; oversees the financial health of the local government system and exercises targeted provincial oversight; provides information and advice to local governments, partner organizations, citizens and taxpayers on virtually any topic, from local elections to governance change to services; resolves issues of mutual interest to the Province and local governments; facilitates community and regional planning and fostering positive intergovernmental relations; and works to facilitate constructive and harmonious relationships between the provincial government and local governments, and between local governments and First Nations.

Local Government Division

Through the Local Government Division, the Ministry provides a range of services to local governments, including maintaining, changing and applying the policy and legislative framework; administering grants programs; and providing education, capacity building, targeted oversight and problem-solving support.

HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE

Building and maintaining partnerships with other provincial ministries, the federal government, local governments, local government organizations such as the Union of BC Municipalities, First Nations and other stakeholders is key to fulfilling the Ministry's mandate.

Many other provincial ministries also have direct relationships with local governments regarding their areas of responsibility, from waste management to transportation to indigenous relations. Consultations with local governments, local government organizations and citizens on undertakings that impact local governments, such as changes to legislation and programs, enhance these partnerships; in some cases, the Province is obligated to consult with local governments or with First Nations. As well, the Ministry collaborates through partner organizations such as the Board of Examiners and the Local Government Leadership Academy to build the capacity of local administrators and elected officials.

HOW TO CONTACT MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9T1

(250) 387-4020

(250) 387-7972

LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/municipal-affairs-housing>

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Community and Regional Planning

- Advising and assisting local governments and provincial agencies in community and regional land use planning
- Supporting and promoting the effective management of growth in the fastest-growing regions of BC
- Coordinating socio-economic effects management planning in response to environmental assessment certificates
- Supporting provincial and local government action on climate change

Intergovernmental Relations

- Assisting to resolve conflicts between government jurisdictions in BC through formal dispute resolution services for some types of disputes
- Supporting the building of productive relationships between local governments and First Nations
- Negotiating agreements and assisting to develop innovative solutions to challenging issues between the province and local governments and among local governments

Infrastructure Support

- Assisting municipalities and regional districts to access infrastructure funding through a variety of conditional grant programs
- Negotiation and program design with the federal government, the provincial ministry responsible for infrastructure, and Union of British Columbia Municipalities on infrastructure funding programs

Finance Support

- Providing advice on all aspects of local government finance
- Providing a complete, reliable and consistent source of data on local governments in BC
- Reviewing and approving long-term borrowing and development cost charge bylaws
- Assisting small municipalities and regional districts through unconditional grant programs

Governance Operations

- Advising, problem solving and educating on complex local and regional governance issues – e.g., elections, services, improvement district operations, ethical standards
- Reviewing and approving regional district service establishment bylaws

Governance Structures

- Overseeing the restructure of local governments, including municipal incorporations and boundary extensions and dissolution of improvement districts, and certifying population changes
- Providing study and transitional funding for some restructure initiatives
- Policy and legislative development
- Developing forward-looking policy and legislation on virtually any aspect of the local government system
- Research, knowledge gathering/sharing about the local government system

University Endowment Lands

- Providing local government-like services to the University Endowment Lands, including fire protection; planning; land use regulation; building regulation and inspection; local roads; water; sewerage; drainage; community parks; and bylaw enforcement



HISTORY

Since its inception in 1934, the Local Government Division (LGD) has helped British Columbia's local governments grow and adapt to changing circumstances. The system of local government that has emerged is unique in many ways.

The story of the LGD's past, told in five distinct eras:

1930-1948

Turbulent Times. Formally established in 1934, the LGD helped financially troubled municipalities survive the Depression and encouraged municipal savings during the Second World War.

1948-1965

Coping with Growth. The 1948 Goldenberg Commission initiated broad-ranging changes to the local government system in BC, including a new *Municipal Act* and the beginnings of regional government institutions.

1965-1995

Collaborative Institutions. In addition to the implementation of regional districts, this era saw the development of province-wide collaborative institutions such as the Municipal Finance Authority and the Municipal Insurance Association.

1995-2005

Fiscal Challenges and Municipal Empowerment. When municipalities sought more autonomy from the provincial government in the 1990s, the LGD helped to facilitate this transition, playing an important role in developing both the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*.

2005-2017

Enhancing Accountability and Democracy. This period saw several refinements to the new framework of local accountability and empowerment. New legislation introduced the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government, whose role is to give advice and recommendations to local governments that help them to deliver their services more efficiently, effectively and economically. As well, substantial changes to local elections campaign financing rules have helped to promote a level playing field in local government elections.

Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFA)

EST. 1970



The MFA helps build British Columbia's communities by pooling their borrowing and investment needs and taking advantage of economies of scale to provide a range of low-cost and flexible financial services to all local governments equally, regardless of their size or location.



ENACTING LEGISLATION

Municipal Finance Authority Act

MANDATE

The mandate of the MFA is to provide financial solutions to BC's local government organizations. Formed in 1970, the MFA united both the borrowing power and requirements of BC's municipalities to provide a collective, long-term debt-issuance facility. All local governments in BC have opted in to the MFA system with the sole exception of the City of Vancouver, which nonetheless remains part of the Metro Vancouver joint and several borrowing guarantee.

The MFA now represents the collective long-term borrowing interests of BC's regional districts, municipalities, regional hospital districts, water and sewer utilities, E-Comm (southwestern BC's emergency services) and CREST (Capital Region Emergency Services Telecommunications).

The MFA is governed by 39 Members of the Authority, representing all regional districts in BC proportional to population. An elected Board of Trustees of 10 of these members oversees executive and administrative powers and duties.

HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE


The mandate of the MFA has expanded to include long-term lending (infrastructure), short-term lending, equipment financing, pooled investment funds and a pooled high-interest savings account program. The MFA leverages its large-scale buying power to provide these added-value programs at competitive rates for very low fees. Our small professional team manages over \$4 billion in long-term loans and almost \$300 million in short-term and equipment loans, and has nearly \$3 billion of investments under management.


The MFA offers:

- A dedicated team of local government finance specialists
- Programs designed specifically for BC local governments
- Low interest rates for both long- and short-term borrowing
- Low or no fees on investment portfolios not available elsewhere
- Online access to all statements and reports
- Impartial assistance with finance and investment issues

HOW TO CONTACT MFA

CONTACT INFORMATION

 #217 - 3680 Uptown Boulevard
Victoria, BC V8Z 0B9

 (250) 383-1181

 mfa.bc.ca

 mfa@mfa.bc.ca

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Long-Term Lending:

- Lowest local government borrowing rates in Canada
- Borrowing opportunities available in spring and fall each year
- Terms from 5 to 30 years
- Semi-annual payments of interest; annual principal payment

Short-Term Lending:

- Temporary borrowing
- Revenue anticipation
- Short-term capital
- Liabilities under agreement
- Low variable interest rate

Equipment Financing:

- Variable-rate, fixed-payment lending
- Easier than traditional leasing
- No fees for early payout or lump-sum payments
- Retain ownership of your assets and act as your own purchaser

Pooled Investment Funds:

- Professionally managed, well-diversified funds
- Three portfolios to suit different time horizons
- Access to corporate fixed-income investments not available outside the MFA
- Very low management fees and no transaction fees

Pooled High-Interest Savings Account:

- Two options with major Canadian banks
- Competitive MFA-negotiated rates
- No term on deposits
- Low to no fees

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To this day, the MFA remains unique in Canada. With almost 50 years of demonstrated fiscal success, the MFA has flourished, evolved, and continues to enhance and increase the financial well-being, equality and autonomy of BC's local governments.



HISTORY

1970

MFA Act passed in the BC legislature

1989

MFA offers short-term lending and pooled investment funds

1994

MFA offers a leasing program, now called Equipment Financing

1995

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage and Water Districts become eligible to borrow

1998

E-Comm becomes eligible to borrow

1999

Regional hospital districts and GVTA/TransLink become eligible to borrow

2005

CREST becomes eligible to borrow

2017

MFA offers a Pooled High-Interest Savings Account Program

BC Assessment

(British Columbia Assessment Authority)

EST. 1974



BC ASSESSMENT

BC Assessment is committed to providing uniform property assessments and trusted property assessment information to support economic and social prosperity in British Columbia.



ENACTING LEGISLATION

Assessment Authority Act
Assessment Act

MANDATE

In 1974, a non-partisan commission tasked with examining property assessment and taxation in BC recommended that legislation be introduced to create a province-wide assessment authority. The authority was to be independent of the municipal and provincial property tax function and of provincial politics. Since the enactment of the *Assessment Authority Act* and *Assessment Act* in July 1974, BC Assessment has provided uniform, fair and independent property assessment services to the people of British Columbia.

HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE

BC Assessment's core product is the annual assessment roll. The roll lists the ownership, valuation, classification and exemption status for all assessable properties in the province and is used to distribute the property tax burden in BC. Our property assessments provide the base for generating nearly \$8 billion annually to fund schools and important community services.

The majority of properties in the province are assessed at market value based upon a valuation date of July 1 of the year during which the assessment roll is completed. Market value is the most probable price that a property should bring in a competitive market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, the buyer and seller each acting prudently and knowledgeably, and assuming the price is not affected by undue stimulus. Market value assessment is widely considered to be the fairest system for distributing the property tax burden. In any tax area, properties of equal value contribute the same tax, with higher-value properties contributing more than those with lower values. In addition, taxpayers can readily check assessments by comparing recent sales and assessments of similar properties within a given jurisdiction.

To determine market value, our professional appraisal staff considers characteristics such as building size, layout, shape, age, condition and quality, and the location, views, topography, and access to services for land. We also liaise with local and provincial agencies regarding land title changes, building, development and subdivision permit approvals, and land use control (i.e., official community plan and zoning) adjustments to determine the impact on assessments. For example, new construction, development approvals and changes in permitted uses can result in non-market change, or new value to the tax base without having to increase tax rates.

Properties are classified into one of nine property classes based on their physical use to allow a variable tax rate system (different tax rates for each class) and to allow partial or complete exemptions from assessment and/or taxation.

HOW TO CONTACT BC ASSESSMENT

CONTACT INFORMATION

1-866-valueBC (825-8322)

localgovernment@bcassessment.ca

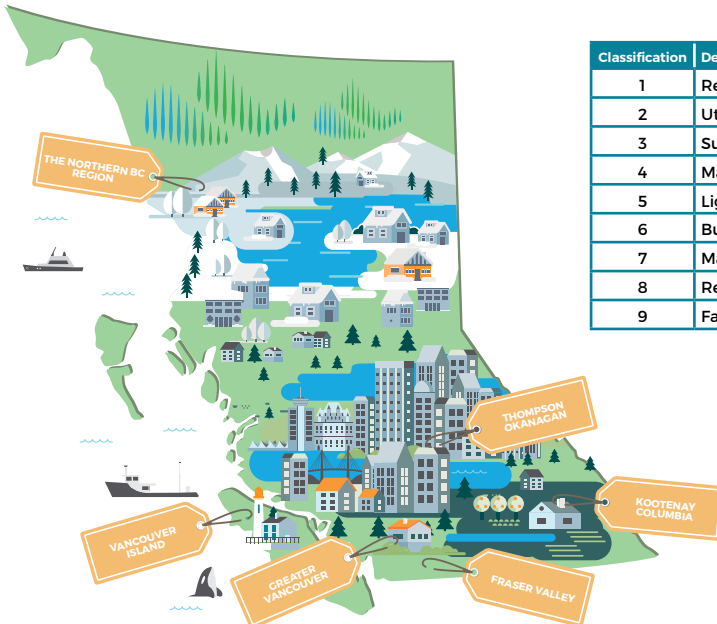
bcassessment.ca

facebook.com/BCAssessmentAuthority

twitter.com/bcassessment

youtube.com/user/BCAssessmentVideos

linkedin.com/company/bc-assessment



Classification	Description
1	Residential
2	Utilities
3	Supportive housing
4	Major industry
5	Light industry
6	Business other
7	Managed forest land
8	Recreational/non-profit
9	Farm land

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Visit bcassessment.ca to learn more about the products and services we provide to assist taxing authorities in the work done in their communities.

Assessment Rolls and Notices

Annual assessment rolls are delivered to taxing authorities via electronic data files, and assessment notices are mailed to over two million property owners each January.

Assessment Roll Reporting Application

A comprehensive self-serve reporting tool that provides 24/7/365 online access to assessment roll data.

Service Boundary Web Map

Enables regional districts to review local service area boundaries against our tax coding.

Standard Building Permit Report

Enables submission of standardized electronic building permit reports directly into our database.

Custom Reports and Data

Data subscriptions and reports can be tailored to suit your organization's needs.

Community Corner

Discussion forum intended to increase communication and collaboration with taxing authorities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

By sharing information and collaborating with us, taxing authorities can help ensure fair, equitable and stable assessments, optimize property tax revenue levied and collected, and increase citizen awareness of assessment and taxation in the province.

The following taxing authority information can impact assessments:

- Building permits and plans
- Land use control amendments
- Development applications and approvals
- Subdivision approvals
- Situs (civic address) assignments
- Extensions of service infrastructure
- Permissive and revitalization tax exemptions
- Mailing address changes
- Occupiers/lessees of civic property

Contact BC Assessment to find out more about how your jurisdiction can get involved.



HISTORY

1974

Assessment Authority and Assessment Acts enacted, creating BC Assessment.

1975

Over 879,000 folios assessed at \$42 billion.

1977

Actual (market) value established as basis for assessments commencing for the 1978 roll.

1983

Property Tax Reform Act enables variable tax rates for each property tax class.

1984

July 1 valuation date (of previous year) established.

1985

Over 1 million folios assessed for the first time.

1996

Over 1.5 million folios assessed.

2005

Assessed value totals over \$500 billion for first time (\$579 billion).

2008

Economic Incentives and Stabilization Statutes Amendment Act (Bill 45) freezes roll in response to world financial crisis.

2010

Assessed value totals over \$1 trillion for the first time (\$1.04 trillion).

2014

Fortieth anniversary of BC Assessment and appeals below 1% (0.91%) for the first time.

2016

Over two million folios assessed for the first time.

Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIABC)

EST. 1987



Through stable liability and property insurance, outreach programs and expert advice, the MIABC gives members the dependable support they need to keep their communities vibrant and alive.



MANDATE

The MIABC is a not-for-profit association that provides local governments in BC with dependable support by offering stable liability and property insurance, outreach programs and expert advice.

HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE

We do not make a profit on our insurance premiums. We are a reciprocal risk pool and use premiums to pay out claims, with the surplus invested to generate investment income. That income reduces costs, pays for member services and provides a capital base to ensure that our rates remain stable. Excess funds are also returned to our members through dividends.


As owners, the MIABC's members dictate the extent of their coverage, voting on changes to the insurance policies each year at the Annual General Meeting. We continually review offerings on the commercial market and consult members on their insurance needs to ensure that members receive the best possible insurance coverage.


We are committed to ensuring our insurance rates remain stable from year to year, avoiding the ups and downs of the commercial market. Since 2003, rate increases have remained under 10%, and for many of our members, rates have, on average, decreased 1% each year.


We offer a wide range of risk management services, including education and training, loss prevention advice, feedback on claims data and access to general legal advice. For many of our members, we are an extension of their risk management department.


HOW TO CONTACT MIABC


CONTACT INFORMATION


 #200-429 West 2nd Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1E3

 1-855-683-6266

 (604) 683-6266

 info@miabc.org

 (604) 683-6244

 miabc.org

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Broad Insurance Coverage

The MIABC has provided liability coverage to its members since 1987. Since 2014, we offer blanket coverage for property of every description, property extensions and special limits, and ancillary coverage such as business interruption and crime.

Through our Associate Member Program, we offer up to \$5 million in liability coverage for independent contractors providing services to their community on behalf of our members.

The MIABC offers the User-Group Insurance Portal, a self-serve online tool through which user groups can arrange competitively priced insurance for their event.

Expert and Principled Claims Handling

Our claims handling philosophy dictates that we resolve claims on a principled basis. This means we do not pay nuisance settlements. If our investigations indicate our member does not face a liability exposure, we will defend the matter thoroughly. We endeavour to resolve the claim as efficiently as possible in accordance with the amount of exposure.

The MIABC's legal department was created in 2006 for the purpose of substantially reducing the cost of litigating claims by handling certain cases in-house rather than using outside counsel. Today, the five lawyers who make up our internal legal team handle approximately half of the MIABC's claims.

Unmatched Risk Management Services

Our mission is to give members the dependable support they need to keep their communities vibrant and alive. To do this, we offer a wide range of risk management and other services. Whether it is a sample waiver template or advice on an inspection policy, financial support for risk management training or a site inspection, the MIABC aims to provide a level of service unavailable anywhere else.



HISTORY

1985 - 1989

The MIABC Is Born – In the mid-1980s, premiums and deductibles for local governments were soaring, but the necessary coverage was increasingly unavailable. The UBCM struck a task force to consider alternatives to the private market, which recommended establishing a self-insurance pooling program. On November 26, 1987, the MIABC was created and, by 1989, had established the Claims Department and the Risk Management Department.

2002

A Blip in Coverage – In the early 2000s, the leaky condo crisis threatened to disintegrate the MIABC's reinsurance program and the MIABC. Although only a small percentage of members faced leaky condo claims, it appeared that it would cost tens of millions of dollars to resolve those claims. The MIABC's members voted to withdraw coverage for leaky condo claims. In retrospect, the magnitude of the risk was less than feared, and the claims were resolved for sums far less than the posted reserves. In 2017, the MIABC's members voted to reinstate water infiltration coverage.

2006 - 2012

Benefits and Services for Members Grow – Between 2006 and 2012, the MIABC reached a number of milestones that highlight the advantages of the reciprocal pool model. In 2006, the Legal Department was established to defend claims at a significantly lower cost to its members, and dividends were returned to members for the first time. In 2010, the MIABC introduced the Risk Management Grant Program, providing funds for new initiatives with the primary purpose of reducing liability exposure. In 2012, the MIABC held its first Risk Management Conference, enabling members to develop their understanding of risk management issues and to connect with other members of the MIABC community.

2014

The MIABC Evolves Its Business – The MIABC launched its Property Insurance Program and created a brokerage arm, Civic Risk Insurance Solutions Inc., to obtain ancillary and specialty coverage required by members. The MIABC purchased a commercial building in Vancouver to house its office and to provide an additional source of revenue.

Government Finance Officers Association of British Columbia (GFOABC)

EST. 1989



The GFOABC promotes excellence in local government by providing support, training and networking opportunities for its members so they may enhance their organization's financial sustainability and be a key resource in supporting their community's long-term success.



MANDATE

Established as a not-for-profit society in 1989, the GFOABC represents local government finance professionals throughout the province. The membership serves taxpayers, elected officials and other stakeholders in BC's 162 municipalities, 27 regional districts and many improvement districts.

GFOABC is dedicated to becoming the leading association for local government financial management in Canada by promoting excellence in local government finance and supporting collaboration and professional development and its members.

HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE

GFOABC promotes best practices for local government finance professionals by providing a wide variety of programs, webinars and workshops on current issues and Public Sector Accounting Board standards.

We provide networking opportunities for local government finance professionals through our annual conferences, educational opportunities and online forum.

GFOABC supports its membership by collaborating with external partners including the Province of British Columbia, stakeholders, and the GFOA of the United States and Canada.

HOW TO CONTACT GFOABC

CONTACT INFORMATION

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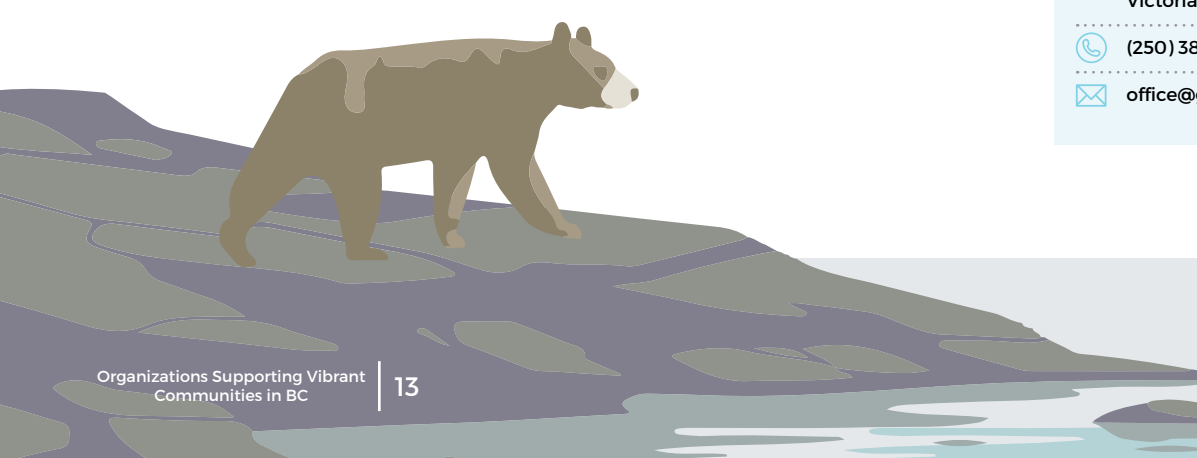
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PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Annual Conference

The GFOABC Annual Conference is the premier training event for local government finance officers, featuring updates from the Ministry, Public Sector Accounting Board and Auditor General for Local Government, along with professional development and opportunities to network.

Boot Camp

The Finance Officer Development Program is designed for finance professionals from both regional districts and municipalities who are new to local government, are working in local government finance departments and wish to enhance their career opportunities or are in a Financial Administrator role and desire a better grounding in the requirements and responsibilities of the position. Held every summer at the University of Victoria, this intensive five-day residential program provides participants with a comprehensive overview of municipal finance issues, focused on providing real-life practical information and tools that can immediately be applied in their organizations.

Strategic Financial Leadership

This program introduces current and emerging local government finance leaders to a comprehensive set of leadership competencies needed to navigate the changing role of local government finance professionals. Participants gain an understanding of and learn to apply core leadership competencies required to resolve conflict and build trust with stakeholders, increasing their value through demonstrated use of these skills.

Workshops and Webinars

GFOABC offers a wide variety of webinars and in-person workshops on topics of current interest and relevance to promote best practices, build capacity, and develop individual knowledge and skills.

Online Forum

The GFOABC online forum has long been a valuable reference, communication and collaboration tool for local government finance officers. The forum is a place where finance officers share best practices and post questions, answers and comments on emerging issues to benefit all local governments from their collective knowledge.



HISTORY

1989

GFOABC established as a volunteer-operated not-for-profit organization under the *Societies Act*.

2003

Hired first professional executive director, shared with LGMA.

First GFOABC conference held.

2006

Completed transformation to professional association and hired full-time executive director.

2007

Launched Boot Camp: Finance Officer Development Program, a five-day in-residence program for new and emerging local government finance officers. The program has trained over 300 finance officers from 2007 to 2017.

2015

Launched Strategic Financial Leadership Program, a professional development program designed to develop leadership competencies for local government finance officers.

Transformed the membership structure from individual memberships to organization-based memberships, extending full member benefits to all local government finance staff across BC at no additional cost.

CivicInfo BC

EST. 2000



CivicInfo BC is British Columbia's local government information hub. Through a portal website at www.civicinfo.bc.ca, CivicInfo BC provides a wide variety of research tools and information resources for those who work, or have an interest, in the province's local government sector.



MANDATE

An incorporated not-for-profit society, CivicInfo BC collects and distributes high-quality information resources that support professional excellence, informed decision making and good governance at the local level.

All of this, and much more, can be found on the CivicInfo BC website. Whatever piece of BC local government information you're looking for, the first site you visit should be www.civicinfo.bc.ca.


HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE


The easiest way to describe CivicInfo BC: we are a specialized online library and information resource, heavily used by local government staff and elected officials. Much like a traditional library, we have a variety of different collections to serve the needs of our members.

- Researching a specific issue? Check out our news feeds, our document collections and our CivicStats.ca data service.
- Looking for someone? We maintain British Columbia's master local government directory.
- Need grant funding for a specific project? Explore our grants database.
- Wondering about statutory deadlines? Our legislative calendar has what you need.
- Curious about local election results? When general local elections are held in BC, municipalities, regional districts and school districts report centrally through CivicInfo BC. Past results are available for research purposes.
- Seeking a new career opportunity? CivicInfo BC operates Canada's largest municipal job boards.

HOW TO CONTACT CIVICINFO BC

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

ON THE CIVICINFO BC WEBSITE (WWW.CIVICINFO.BC.CA), YOU WILL FIND:

News

Local government press releases, and daily headlines on Twitter @BCHeadlines.

Events and Training

CivicInfo BC proudly works with its local government sector partners, providing a calendar of all major local government sector events and an online registration service for those who wish to use it. We also have a selection of books and manuals available for sale through our website.

Directories

CivicInfo BC maintains the province's comprehensive contact directories for municipalities and regional districts. Contact information for First Nations, improvement districts and municipal agencies is also available.

Research Tools

Our members have access to a suite of research tools, including our CivicStats.ca statistics and data visualization system, surveys, sample documents, archived local election results, a grants database, a legislative calendar, special-purpose toolkits and more.

Careers

In partnership with the Local Government Management Association of BC, our BC Local Government Job Board is the BC municipal sector's go-to resource for local government job postings. And through our CivicJobs.ca service, postings are also distributed to a national public audience.

Bids and Tenders

To help you find the help you need, CivicInfo BC posts requests for proposals, requests for quotes, invitations to tender and other opportunities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Annually, the CivicInfo BC website experiences over seven million page views.
- We log approximately 1.8 million visitor sessions per year.
- About 30% of our traffic is through mobile devices.
- Since our inception, we have posted over 40,000 career opportunities on our job boards.
- Our five most-used resources, in order starting from the top: the job boards, local government directories, bids and tenders, the @BCHeadlines news feed, and statistics and surveys.



HISTORY

1999

In 1999, a needs assessment funded by the UBCM identified the need for a comprehensive online local government information service. To make this a reality, a steering committee of the province's major municipal organizations was assembled, and the initial seed funding for CivicInfo BC was secured. Our founding partners were:

- BC Assessment
- Local Government Institute, University of Victoria
- Local Government Management Association of BC
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Province of BC
- Municipal Finance Authority of BC
- Municipal Insurance Association of BC
- Union of BC Municipalities

2000

Incorporation as a not-for-profit society followed in 2000, and the original partnership was soon expanded to include the GFOABC and the Municipal Information Systems Association of BC. Between 2000 and 2012, each organization appointed a representative to the CivicInfo BC board of Directors. Rounding out a 17-member Board were six representatives from the province's geographic regions and two directors at large.

2012

Following a governance review, the Board of Directors was streamlined in 2012. Today, the board consists of seven people, all elected at large from across BC.

Integrated Cadastral Information Society

(ICI Society)

EST. 2001



Building collaborative networks to facilitate innovative, location-based solutions that support the economic, social, and environmental well-being of British Columbians.



MANDATE

Incorporated in May 2001 and registered under the *British Columbia Societies Act* as a non-profit organization, the Society works to facilitate collaborative integration of spatial data from local government, provincial government, First Nations and major utilities in BC.

Other key initiatives of the Society include: AddressBC, Local Government Infrastructure Mains and Joint Infrastructure Planning initiatives that focus on aggregation of shared member data to provide cost-effective planning tools for all members.


HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE


The ICI Society is funded by the provincial government, BC Assessment and the Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA); utility companies operating in British Columbia, including Shaw Communications, TELUS, BC Hydro, FortisBC Energy and Enbridge Pipeline Inc.; and associate members. The Society supports data-sharing initiatives that standardize, aggregate, integrate and provide one-stop access to the best available geospatial data for the province.

Member driven initiatives to increase the availability of geospatial data, improve data quality and to achieve adoption of a province-wide single cadastre are key to the success of the Society. In partnership with the LTSA, the Society supports and endorses the adoption and use of ParcelMap BC (PMBC) as the single, complete, trusted and actively maintained cadastre for the province. In addition, ICI Society will promote province-wide use of PMBC by all members by the end of 2020, with the goal of full-scale adoption by the end of 2022.


HOW TO CONTACT ICI SOCIETY

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

SHARED MEMBER DATA

ParcelMap BC (PMBC)

Maintained and contributed by LTSA, ParcelMap BC represents the single, complete, trusted and sustainable spatial representation of cadastre in BC.

ICI Cadastre

Cadastral data maintained and provided by local government and including GeoBC's Integrated Cadastral Fabric is aggregated to form the ICI Cadastre.

Address Data

Address data maintained and provided by local government and First Nations is aggregated by the Society to populate AddressBC; a central and authoritative civic address registry for BC.

Assessment Data

Assessment data maintained and contributed by BC Assessment is a geospatial representation of the assessment roll.

Infrastructure Data

Infrastructure data maintained and contributed by major utility organizations operating in BC.

Local government infrastructure data, including sewer, storm and water mains is aggregated to provide a single source of local government mains data.

New Initiatives

Ongoing development is focused on cost-effective sharing of spatial data that improves data quality, currency and access through collaboration.

SERVICES

Map Viewer

Ongoing upgrades to the Map Viewer support viewing and downloading shared data.

Data Catalog

Easy access to downloadable data packages, customizable to members' business and technical requirements.

GeoShare

Automated, scheduled data-sharing processes, customizable to members' business and technical requirements.

Information Technology

Robust IT infrastructure enables and secures all ICI Society data services.

Communication

Member forums, user conferences, online training and member-led working groups.

Grant Programs

Grant-funding programs support data-quality improvements as well as implementation and adoption of key initiatives.



HISTORY

2001

- Incorporation and registration under the *BC Societies Act* as a non-profit organization.

2002 - 2007

- Development of the ICI Society Data Sharing License Agreement (DSLTA).
- Expansion of membership in the Society.
- Launch of the Society's first Web Map Viewer.
- Launch of the CivicSpatial Grant Program funded by TELUS, Shaw, FortisBC, BC Hydro, the Province of British Columbia, BC Assessment and the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

2008 - 2014

- Launch of AddressBC as a central civic address registry for BC.
- Cost-sharing ortho-imagery for the 2010 Winter Olympics.
- Rollout of GeoShare for scheduled, automated data exchange.
- Expansion of Society membership with increase in Associate members.
- Upgraded Web Map and Data Catalog provide new features and improved data access.

2015 - 2018

- Local government mains layer developed and implemented through GeoShare.
- Enabling ParcelMap BC adoption and alignment identified as a key initiative.
- Mobile-ready Map Viewer released.
- AddressBC data-quality initiatives integrate with the BC Physical Address Geocoder.
- ParcelMap BC becomes available to members via the Data Catalog and the Web Map Viewer.
- Cost-effective initiatives for joint infrastructure planning developed.

Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA)

EST. 2006



The Local Government Leadership Academy is a leadership development initiative that serves local government and First Nations elected officials and senior administrators by improving the competencies needed to effectively manage and lead BC's communities.



MANDATE


The LGLA was incorporated under the *British Columbia Societies Act* in 2010. LGLA provides local government and First Nations elected officials and senior administrators with comprehensive, timely and dedicated leadership development opportunities throughout their terms of office/employment in the interest of improving governance at the local level.

HOW WE FULFILL OUR MANDATE


The LGLA offers various learning opportunities for local government and First Nations elected officials and senior administrators, including an Elected Officials Seminar series, province-wide Leadership Forums, an annual Chief Elected Officials Forum, and periodic online learning opportunities in partnership with other local government agencies. In addition, the LGLA administers a certificate program acknowledging the ongoing leadership development efforts of local government elected officials during their terms of office.

HOW TO CONTACT LGLA


CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Elected Officials Seminars

The LGLA holds a series of three-day Elected Officials Seminars (EOS) around the province following local government elections. These seminars act as an orientation to local government for newly elected officials as well as a chance for returning elected officials to refresh their knowledge, reconnect with colleagues, build on their governance capabilities and mentor newly elected officials. Topics covered at the EOS series include local government law, finance and planning, meeting procedures, roles and responsibilities, local government-First Nations relations and citizen engagement.

Leadership Forums

In between election years, the LGLA holds a three-day province-wide Leadership Forum exploring themes related to successful governance (e.g., communication, respectful leadership and relationship-building). Province-wide forums are attended by local government and First Nations elected officials and senior administrators from all regions of BC. Most years, the LGLA also holds a Chief Elected Officials (CEO) Forum, which brings mayors, chairs and chiefs from around the province together for a two-day interactive session exploring the particular challenges of leading BC's communities.

Online Learning

Periodic online learning opportunities are provided in conjunction with LGLA's founding partners and other local government organizations looking to educate local leaders in particular topic areas (e.g., community economic development, citizen engagement, information and privacy and climate change).

Certificate Program

In addition to providing educational opportunities, the LGLA offers a certificate program for elected officials to recognize ongoing efforts in leadership development. The certificate program is designed to be completed over the course of three or more electoral terms and requires elected officials to have achieved a certain number of course hours in attendance at LGLA and other local government learning events, in addition to their elected service. The following certificates are awarded:

- Level I** Certificate in Local Government Leadership
- Level II** Advanced Certificate in Local Government Leadership
- Level III** Certificate of Excellence in Local Government Leadership

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The LGLA is pleased to offer the Cathy Watson Memorial Award in honour of one of the original founding members of the LGLA. Cathy Watson was a long-serving employee of the provincial government, a dedicated proponent of local government-First Nations relations, and a strong supporter of education and leadership training for elected officials. She made many lasting contributions in this area, and the award was established in her name to enable participation in the annual LGLA Leadership Forum and the EOS series by local government or First Nations elected officials who might otherwise be unable to attend due to financial constraints.



HISTORY

2005

In 2005, in acknowledgment of the 100th anniversary of the UBCM, an analysis was conducted of the training and educational resources available to local elected officials and senior administrators in British Columbia. It was determined that there was a lack of ongoing, coordinated and comprehensive support in this area. The LGLA was a response to this need and was envisioned as a leadership development initiative that would serve the needs of elected officials and senior administrators by improving the competencies needed to effectively manage and lead BC's communities.

2006


An LGLA endowment was established with a provincial government contribution of \$1 million, along with contributions from individual BC local governments and from partner associations with strong ties to the UBCM: BC Assessment Authority, MFA, LGMA, and MIABC. Interest on the endowment was intended to ensure that a program of training opportunities would be made available to local elected officials and senior administrators on an annual basis. The Academy operates as a not-for-profit organization, and any surpluses generated are reinvested in the account established for the purposes of the Academy.


2010


The five founding partners of the LGLA continue to provide in-kind and financial support to the organization, as well as representatives that sit on the LGLA Board of Directors. In return for this support, LGLA provides a coordinated program that is responsive to the needs of local government and First Nations elected officials throughout the province. It is run efficiently and with an eye to filling gaps in existing training initiatives, rather than duplicating training already offered through other programs. LGLA programming endeavours to address individual and group needs and the needs of communities of varying sizes, and it includes both a regional delivery element and an online presence. The Board of Directors is also committed to making training opportunities both affordable and accessible to all communities.

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UBCM

**MUNICIPAL
INSURANCE
ASSOCIATION
OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

GFOABC

CIVICINFOBC

**INTEGRATED
CADASTRAL
INFORMATION
SOCIETY**
Sharing Spatial Data

LGLA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

BC ASSESSMENT

MFABC
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

**BRITISH
COLUMBIA** | Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

LGMA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTING
VIBRANT
COMMUNITIES IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA**