

2013/14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT

Background:

Formed collaboratively in 2006 by UBCM, MFA, LGMA, BCAA, MIA, local governments of BC and the Province of BC, the LGLA provides comprehensive, timely and dedicated leadership development opportunities throughout each electoral term in the interests of improving governance at the local level. An original endowment from each of the aforementioned, plus subsequent contributions, has enabled the LGLA to provide quality programming since its establishment.

LGLA's main offerings are the Newly Elected and Returning Elected Officials Seminars in the winter immediately following local government elections and a province-wide annual Leadership Forum in between election years. In addition, we have held an annual Chief Executive Officer (Mayors/Chairs) Forum in the spring.

We intend to continue with our NEO/REO Seminars and our annual Leadership Forum, and as of 2014 we will also be participating in the Area Association spring conferences and looking into online learning opportunities.

2013 ACTIVITIES:

Since our last AGM, LGLA has held the following events:

- 2013 CEO Forum - "Triple 'A' Regional Collaboration"
- 2014 Leadership Forum - "Through the Looking Glass: Reflections on Leadership"

We have also participated in (or are scheduled to participate in) the following:

- 2013 UBCM Convention
- 2014 Spring Area Association Conferences

SUMMARY OF 2013 ACTIVITIES:

2013 CEO Forum - "Triple 'A' Regional Collaboration" (June 13-14, 2013)

Participants in the 2013 Chief Executive Officer Forum, led by Gordon McIntosh, learned concepts, obtained tools and shared experiences related to key regional collaboration themes such as:

- Developing an overarching protocol of shared aims to guide collaboration;
- Identifying ideal strategic topics or shared services for cooperation;
- Learning different partnering strategies through 'real time' examples;
- Sharing examples of regional collaboration efforts;
- Discussing ways to prevent issues in collaborative efforts; and
- Developing strategies to overcome collaboration road blocks.

Some key outcomes for participants included means of identifying and assessing the feasibility of collaboration ideas, knowledge of the different personality and behavioural styles that can affect collaboration, strategies to move from talk to action in collaboration, and an opportunity to discuss and problem solve real-time collaborative challenges facing participants.

2014 Leadership Forum - “Through the Looking Glass: Reflections on Leadership” (February 5-7, 2014)

The fifth LGLA Leadership Forum was held at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond and was attended by 138 delegates from all over the province. Registration was comprised of 1 Chief, 63 Electoral Area Directors and Chairs, 19 Mayors, 46 Councillors, and 9 local government staff members. Together these delegates represented 41 local governments and 4 First Nations communities from small and large communities in urban and rural areas alike.

Forum evaluations (46% response rate) indicate an overall rating for the 2014 forum of 4.3 out of 5, with 94.4% giving it a “good-excellent” satisfaction rating. By way of comparison, in 2013, we received a 4.4 out of 5 overall rating and a 90% “good-excellent” satisfaction rating. So we were once again successful in providing the quality conference experience our delegates have come to expect.

The following table highlights the ratings some of the more prominent sessions received:

Session/Speaker	Rating out of 5	Good-Excellent Rating
Emeritus Mayor Peter Woods, Keynote	4.2	84.1%
Ken Cameron, Forum Rapporteur	4.3	91.7%
Young Leaders Panel	4.3	91.7%
Mike Harcourt Panel	3.8	61.4%
Paul Kershaw “Generation Squeeze”	3.8	58.3%
George Cuff “Council/Board-CAO Relations”	4.4	90.9%
Greg Halseth “Community Outreach”	4.0	72.5%
Joyanne Landers “Work-life Balance”	4.6	95.2%
Carol Ann Fried “Finding Your Joy Spot”	3.9	73.3%

Some of the positive comments from our delegates included:

- “Learned a lot at these sessions.”
- “Excellent sessions especially on wellness and with life balance.”
- “Very informative. I very much enjoyed learning in the sessions. Planning/financial CAO relations etc.”
- “Productive, interesting, well paced.”

- “Thanks for all your great work and support for elected officials – excellent opportunity for us. I prefer sessions where the conference participants are engaged with the topic and not fond of “talking heads” in general. LGLA is a great institution.”
- “Very informative sessions with a lot of thought provoking sessions. Thank you.”

We are now turning our attention to the upcoming 2015 NEO/REO Seminars and we have made note of not only the compliments we received after the 2014 Forum, but the suggestions for improvement as well. We expect to hold another outstanding event next year – something our delegates have come to expect from the LGLA.

LGLA Participation in 2013 UBCM Convention

LGLA had a presence at the 2013 UBCM Convention – holding a table at a session which provided UBCM delegates with an opportunity to learn about various local government organizations and services and speak with their representatives. Program Manager Errin Morrison staffed the LGLA table and saw a steady stream of elected officials, senior staff members and First Nations representatives who were interested in learning about the LGLA and the LGLA Certificates in Local Government Leadership, and who were more than willing to share their own programming ideas with us. We came away with many new contacts and a list of potential session topics of direct relevance to our audience.

2014 Spring Area Association Conferences

One of our key goals over the past year has been to re-establish ties with the five Area Associations and to work on building mutually beneficial relationships with them. To this end, we extended complimentary registration for our 2014 Leadership Forum to each of the Area Association Executive Directors and were pleased that two of them were able to attend: Arlene Parkinson of AKBLG and Alison Slater of SILGA.

As a second step, we approached each of the Area Associations with a joint BC Assessment/LGLA proposal to deliver a presentation at their 2014 spring conferences. We were successful in securing a spot on the programs of three out of five: AKBLG, LMLGA and SILGA. BCA will deliver the session at each event, with an LGLA representative giving the introduction and taking a few moments to talk to Area Association delegates about the LGLA Certification Program and our annual learning opportunities.

We hope that participation in the Area Association conferences will include all five Areas next year and that this will be the beginning of strong and ongoing relationships.

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE

LGLA hired Errin Morrison (formerly of UBCM and now working as an independent consultant) on a short-term contract to assist in organizing the 2013 Leadership Forum. This was a successful working relationship and she was subsequently contracted as LGLA's Program Manager with key organizing responsibilities for the 2014 Leadership Forum. This is a part-time position primarily dedicated to organizing LGLA's annual learning events, but with some additional responsibility for reporting on these events and for researching/exploring new opportunities (e.g., eLearning and webinars) and liaising and building relationships with representatives of partner organizations and others. We are hopeful that some stability in this key staff role will assist us in building our capacity and establishing strong relationships that will be crucial to the LGLA's long-term success.

LGMA appointed Kelly Ridley to the LGLA Board in 2013, replacing Paul Murray who served as LGMA's representative before her. Current members of the LGLA Board are:

Mayor Mary Sjostrom, Chair - Union of BC Municipalities

Mayor Sharon Gaetz, Union of BC Municipalities

Gary Paget, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Cathy Watson, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (*on leave*)

Nicola Marotz, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Robin Stringer, Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Kelly Ridley, Local Government Management Association of BC

Richard Taylor, Director at Large

SUMMARY

In closing, the past year has been a successful one in terms of events offered and goals achieved. We are now looking ahead to the next electoral term and focusing on 2015 NEO/REO Seminar organizing. We will also be preparing an updated Four-year Program Plan, exploring opportunities for eLearning and webinar offerings, and considering the development of a third level of Local Government Leadership Certification. Relationship building with the Area Associations will be an ongoing priority, as will promoting an awareness of the LGLA among those who have so much to benefit from this dedicated and unique organization.