

2014/15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT

Background:

Formed collaboratively in 2005 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 founding organizations, plus subsequent contributions, has enabled the LGLA to provide quality programming since its establishment.

LGLA's main offerings are the 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 Elected Officials Seminars and our annual Leadership Forum, and as of 2014 we have also sought to participate in the Area Association spring conferences and to offer online learning opportunities.

2014/15 ACTIVITIES:

Since the last AGM, LGLA staged these main events:

- 2015 Elected Officials Seminar Series – 8 events around the province

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

- 2014 UBCM Convention
- Understanding Municipal Financial Statements Webinar
- 2015 CEO Forum

Overview of the Main Events

- 2015 ELECTED OFFICIALS SEMINARS

This is our signature event that reached a record 721 delegates (667 elected) at 8 events around the province. This is just over 55% of the newly elected and returning elected officials in the province. A breakdown of attendance by event is included below.

Small - Richmond		Large - Richmond		Electoral Areas - Richmond		SILGA - Kelowna		AVICC 1&2 - Parksville		NCLGA - Prince George		AKBLG - Kimberley	
NEO	34	NEO	42	NEO	35	NEO	51	NEO	90	NEO	54	NEO	60
REO	29	REO	31	REO	24	REO	39	REO	68	REO	41	REO	69
Staff	3	Staff	--	Staff	12	Staff	6	Staff	6	Staff	17	Staff	10
Total	66	Total	73	Total	71	Total	96	Total	164	Total	112	Total	139

NEO = Newly Elected Officials; REO = Returning Elected Officials

Sessions were held in Richmond (3), Kelowna, Parksville (2), Prince George and Kimberley. Ratings were generally in the good to excellent (G-E) range, as noted by seminar in the table below. In addition, overall seminar ratings out of 5 were high.

Small - Richmond		Large - Richmond		Electoral Areas - Richmond		SILGA - Kelowna		AVICC 1&2 - Parksville		NCLGA - Prince George		AKBLG - Kimberley	
G-E	85%	G-E	100%	G-E	91%	G-E	98%	G-E	94%	G-E	98%	G-E	91%
4.1/5		4.2/5		4.2/5		4.4/5		4.4/5		4.5/5		4.2/5	

Compared to 2012 we have set a new, higher benchmark but appear to slip a bit overall. Below is a comparative overall ratings display showing the number of 4.1 to 4.6 ratings by percent of sessions from 2009 onward.

Rating /5	2015		2012		2009	
	Number of Ratings	Percent of Sessions	Number of Ratings	Percent of Sessions	Number of Ratings	Percent of Sessions
4.6	1 session	12.5%				
4.5	1 session	12.5%	2 sessions	25%	1 session	16%
4.4	1 session	12.5%	2 sessions	25%	1 session	16%
4.3			3 sessions	37.5%	2 sessions	33%
4.2	4 sessions	50.0%	1 session	12.5%	2 sessions	33%
4.1	1 session	12.5%				

Comparative good to excellent ratings over the past three EOS series are also noted below.

Good to Excellent Rating	2015	2012	2009
	Number of events	Number of events	Number of events
100%	1	2	
98%	2	1	1
97%		1	
96%		1	
95%	1		1
93%		2	2
92%	1		1
91%	2	1	
90%	1		
89%			1

The 2015 program and speakers worked well. In particular, holding the simultaneous events resulted in significant cost-savings and efficiencies. The increased attendance, especially among returning elected officials is positive, but we have a little work to do to bring the ratings back up to 2012 levels and beyond. LGLA board and staff members, as well as delegates to the seminars, have provided constructive criticism that should enable us to improve the experience next time around. All in all the seminars were well received and can be judged a success.

Other Events of Note

- **LGLA ATTENDANCE AT 2014 UBCM CONVENTION**

Eydie Fraser, Board and Seminar Coordinator, attended the 2014 UBCM Convention in Whistler to facilitate handing out 2014 LGLA Certificates in Local Government Leadership. Errin Morrison, Program Manager, manned the UBCM booth for an afternoon and was able to interact with delegates and provide information and handouts on the LGLA.

- **CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS FORUM**

A 2014 CEO Forum was not held due to declining registration and an acknowledged need to refresh the program for this event. Due to renewed demand following the local government elections, planning is currently underway for a 2015 CEO Forum, to be held June 24-25, 2015 at Granville Island Hotel in Vancouver – led by Gordon McIntosh, with assistance from Don Lidstone.

- **2015 AREA ASSOCIATION CONFERENCES**

Despite a concerted effort to host sessions at each of the spring 2015 Area Association Conferences, LGLA was unable to secure program space at these events. This was partially due to limited space on the agendas, and partially due to difficulty in securing speakers for the available openings. Plans were also complicated due to staff time being taken up by 2015 EOS planning and organizing. In lieu of sessions at the 2015 conferences, LGLA will make a one-page handout available at the registration area for each event, and Errin Morrison will attend and assist at registration for the LMLGA conference in order to interact with delegates.

- **UNDERSTANDING MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

LGLA partnered with LGMA to offer a webinar for new and experienced senior staff and elected officials on the topic of Understanding Municipal Financial Statements on February 24-26 and March 3-5, 2015. There were 18 participants altogether – 3 of these were elected officials. Those who filled out evaluations (7 people) gave the course an overall rating of 4.14 out of 5 and rated instructor Nancy Gomerich 4.43 out of 5. LGLA will be looking to partner with LGMA on future course offerings of interest to both local government staff and elected officials. In this case, LGMA took the lead in organizing, hosting, and financing the webinar, with LGLA advertising it to elected officials via notifications and announcements at the 2015 EOS financial management sessions.

Strategic Activities

In addition to the learning events noted above, the LGLA board also completed the following strategic activities over the past year.

4-Year Program Plan

2014 saw the completion of a revised “4 Year Program Plan” in response to the introduction of the four-year local government election cycle and the need for an updated plan to guide LGLA activities. The Plan outlines various LGLA program areas and the priority work to be

carried out in each year, as well as identifying significant events. The Plan is a working document that will be revised, amended and added to on a regular basis by the Board.

Area Association Relationship Building

Despite the lack of success in organizing LGLA sessions at the spring 2015 Area Association Conferences, relations with the Area Associations are currently good. The goal is to continue to work on relationship building and to re-establish a solid LGLA presence at the 2016 conferences.

Webinars/Online Learning

LGLA made its first foray into webinar delivery (in recent years) with the help of the LGMA. It is hoped that we will be able to partner with LGMA again to offer webinars on topics of relevance to both staff and elected officials. It is also hoped that LGLA can soon begin to offer its own webinars and online learning opportunities. One small step toward this goal has been posting audio recordings of the proceedings of the first three Elected Officials Seminars to the LGLA website.

STAFFING

LGLA has benefited from consistent staffing over the past few years. Errin Morrison continues as Program Manager, and Eydie Fraser as Board and Seminar Coordinator. In addition, Pamela Lewis was once again responsible for coordinating hotel, audio-visual and other logistics for the Elected Officials Seminars and Richard Taylor took a leave of absence from the LGLA Board to act as onsite Program Manager for four of the eight EOS events around the province. This group works very well together and did an excellent job of organizing another successful seminar series, as well as other events.

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 our next major event: the 2016 Leadership Forum. As well, we hope to attend the 2015 UBCM Convention, partner with LGMA to offer another webinar to elected officials in fall 2015, participate in the 2016 Area Association spring conferences, and promote our local government leadership certificate program.