



LGMA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS LEGACY FUND
SCHOLARSHIP**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION
FOR 2026**



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APPLICANT INFORMATION

Distinguished Members Legacy Fund Scholarship

The purpose of the Distinguished Members Legacy Fund Scholarship is to encourage students with an interest in local government management and administration to pursue post-secondary opportunities. The Fund has been established to recognize distinguished Local Government Management Association members who have had careers in and made significant contributions to local government in British Columbia (see attached Honour Roll of Members). A scholarship is available to assist students whose permanent address is in British Columbia and who have a demonstrated interest in local government public service and who are accepted or are registered in a course of studies at an accredited post-secondary institution. Preference will be given to applicants from smaller communities.

Candidates should be intending to treat their diploma or degree as a final diploma/degree and as a pre-requisite to professional employment in local government or to support their career in local government through further post-secondary education.

The Scholarship shall be for one year and in the amount of up to \$1,500 to be provided to the successful candidate as a voucher to the specified post-secondary institution upon proof of registration.

A. Eligibility

1. Persons registered at a post-secondary educational institution, and undertaking either full time or part time course of studies directly related to local government management and administration; AND
2. Persons who are permanent residents of British Columbia.

B. Applications

1. Any application for a Scholarship must be submitted by completing the online submission form. For any inquiry, please contact office@lgma.ca.

2. To be considered, each application must be accompanied by confirmation from an accredited post-secondary institution that the applicant is a registered student.
3. To be considered, applicants must submit as part of their application a statement in 500 words or less that demonstrates their desire to pursue a career or enhance their career in local government and how their course of studies will help support that goal.
4. All elements of this application must be complete for it to be considered.
5. Applications must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on October 15, 2026, with notification to the successful candidate being given by the Local Government Management Association by December 15, 2026 at the latest.

C. Use of Award

1. The scholarship will be provided to the successful applicant as a voucher in the name of the designated post-secondary institution indicated on the application. The scholarship may be redeemed to pay costs of tuition at the designated post-secondary educational institution.

**Unfortunately, LGMA Scholarships cannot be used towards Municipal Administration Training Institute® (aka MATI®) programs as LGMA delivers these programs in partnership with Capilano University and therefore cannot receive scholarship dollars as the administering organization. Please review the LGMA Travel Grant for more information about financial supports for the MATI ® programs. This does not impact on the eligibility of other Capilano University PADM courses, only referencing the LGMA-Capilano University delivered MATI® programs.*

2. Preference will be given to British Columbia courses where available.
3. Scholarship awards are valid from one year from the time of award.

D. Value of Award

1. Full eligible costs may be awarded to a lifetime maximum of \$1,500.00 per individual subject to funding availability.

E. Approval

1. The Local Government Management Association will be responsible for determining or adjusting the amount of each award. Within the maximum amounts permissible, the Association may, at its discretion, adjust the amount of any award to reflect the circumstances of the post-secondary tuition costs. The Vancouver Foundation administers the Fund on behalf of the Local Government Management Association and will issue the voucher to the scholarship recipient's post-secondary institution.

**Please note, due to scholarship fund restrictions, scholarships can only be administered to an accredited post-secondary institution. Scholarships cannot be administered to applicants, their employer, or any other recipient.*

2. The Local Government Management Association reserves the right to either not award a scholarship in a given year or to award a scholarship to more than one person subject to availability of funds and if circumstances warrant.



HONOUR ROLL OF MEMBERS – DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS LEGACY FUND SCHOLARSHIP



TOM MACDONALD

The LGMA was privileged to have Tom MacDonald as its Executive Director from May 2003 to January 2013, growing the Association as a professional body and a financially successful organization while also creating a legacy of strong educational programming. An entrepreneur at heart, Tom was a humble, visionary leader who devoted his efforts to the LGMA's members, recognizing that at its core, the strength of the Association is its people. He encouraged so many in the profession, supported all who needed it, and motivated hundreds to get involved and engaged in the LGMA.

Tom understood the importance of creating a knowledge-sharing culture (or, in his words, “collective volunteerism”) – so much so that his reach went beyond British Columbia. He built relationships and shared knowledge and ideas with local government associations across Canada and the US, and spearheaded LGMA's partnership with the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Tom's philosophy was one of bringing people together, and his gift was empowering others to believe in themselves.

Tom never wanted to be in the spotlight, always shining light on those around him, whether it was the staff team, the Board, or the many volunteers who signed up to help with the work of the LGMA.

Tom MacDonald lost his courageous battle with cancer on September 12, 2019. The LGMA has lost a friend, a champion for the profession, and an inspirational leader and mentor.



HONOUR ROLL OF MEMBERS – DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS LEGACY FUND SCHOLARSHIP

GARY PAGET



Gary Paget retired from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in April 2018, after more than 40 years of service. He is being honoured for his significant contributions to the work of the LGMA, to its membership and to the local government system in his many different roles. Through his leadership throughout his career, Gary has been a champion of the local government system, establishing collaborative partnerships to solve problems and achieve results.

Gary made major contributions to the development of the local government system in British Columbia. He played a key role in developing the *Growth Strategies Act*; reforming regional government; legislation to enable discretionary planning controls and amenity bargaining; designing and implementing the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*; and a new policy framework for enhancing resort communities, to name just a few of the legacies of his career.

He also made major contributions to individual communities in British Columbia, including developing the community of Tumbler Ridge; implementing one of the first major experiments in aboriginal self-government in Canada, the Sechelt First Nation; creating new municipalities; and assisting numerous communities with growth and change.

Gary acted as the Ministry representative or liaison on a number of specific initiatives with the LGMA including being a key lead on assisting local governments to learn about the *Community Charter* in 2003; sitting as the Ministry partner, along with the LGMA and Municipal Finance Authority, on the pilot Management Internship Program Steering Committee that ran from 2008-11; and sitting as the Chair of the Board of Examiners since 2009. He has also been a facilitator on the Working Group on Responsible Conduct of Elected Officials since 2017. Gary was a regular presenter at many LGMA programs, including at several annual conferences, MATI Foundations and CAO Forums.

Gary's appreciation for and commitment to working with partners is one of his most significant contributions, and he has acted as a conduit to government and an intermediary for collaborations for programs and initiatives that support the local government system. Many local government members from the past four decades have asked and benefited from Gary's wise counsel and he has provided support, advice and assistance to the LGMA whenever asked. A true friend and mentor of the LGMA, we wish him all the best in retirement.



HONOUR ROLL OF MEMBERS – DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS LEGACY FUND SCHOLARSHIP

GERRY KINGSTON



Gerry spent 34 years working in the local government system in regional districts in the Comox Valley and the Fraser Valley. Throughout that time, Gerry earned the respect of his colleagues and co-workers and was a man who, while being very dedicated to his work, still maintained his great sense of humour through it all. As a long-time member of the Local Government Management Association, Gerry was an active participant in the affairs of the Association, and a great source of stories, advice and support as a regular attendee at Chapter meetings and conferences.

He served the LGMA as a volunteer in many capacities, sitting on various LGMA committees for several years, including the Municipal Administration Training Institute (MATI) Foundations Committee, which oversees one of the LGMA's flagship programs, and as a Pension Plan Trustee Liaison. He advocated for an annual Chief Administrative Officers Forum and served on many of the committees that developed these highly respected programs for his fellow CAOs. As well, Gerry served as the Lower Mainland Chapter representative to the LGMA Board and moved through various positions as an Executive Member of the Board, culminating in the position of LGMA President in 2001-2002.

As President, Gerry was instrumental in leading the transition to the LGMA (formerly Municipal Officers Association) from its more modest beginnings to the professional organization that exists today. Gerry was also involved with the decision-making process for the formation and creation of CivicInfo BC, the very successful local government information society that serves government organizations throughout BC and across Canada. During his time on the Board, Gerry brought a high level of professionalism and leadership, while always maintaining a sense of enthusiasm for and commitment to the work of the Association and its volunteers.

His colleagues remember his compassion and loyalty and fondly recall his wonderful laugh – even discussions about something challenging and frustrating always ended with his laugh.

Gerry passed away January 30, 2017 in Chilliwack, BC.



HONOUR ROLL OF MEMBERS – DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS LEGACY FUND SCHOLARSHIP

DAVE WILSON



Dave Wilson was a leader and a mentor to many in the local government field.

He started his career in 1951 with the City of Vancouver. During his 53 years in local government he worked for eight local governments as an employee and many times that number as a consultant.

Dave was a builder of organizations. He was the first CAO for the District of Gold River, the Nanaimo Regional District and the Village of Queen Charlotte, creating all of these local governments from incorporation.

Some would suggest his greatest accomplishment occurred during his tenure at the Municipal Finance Authority where he took the organization to a new level of respectability, delivering to the MFA its first Triple “A” rating while experiencing interest rates that ranged between 6% and 22%!

However, Dave’s greatest contributions were not about his accomplishments, but about the way in which he carried out his business. He was always a gentleman and a caring individual. As a mentor and a leader, he always had time to acknowledge and help people. We all learned so much from him and not just because of the depth of his knowledge and his long experience. His extraordinary people skills stood out. He was a master in managing relations with boards and councils, a consummate inter-governmental diplomat and a shrewd judge and manager of people. Most importantly, he was a delight to be around; warm, thoughtful, witty, fun loving and devoted to his supportive wife Jean and his four lovely daughters.

It was Dave’s goal to assist ‘up and coming’ local government staff that would grow and prosper with effective education and mentoring. That goal reflects the way that Dave went about his business during his entire career. Dave Wilson passed away in Prince George on October 4, 2008.



HONOUR ROLL OF MEMBERS – DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS LEGACY FUND SCHOLARSHIP

GEORGE PAUL



Mentor, role model, and friend, George Paul was a well-known and deeply respected leader in local government in British Columbia.

True to his philosophy that city managers shouldn't be in their positions long term unless they continue to add value, he worked in only two municipalities over his 30-year career, beginning in Penticton as deputy clerk in 1976 and retiring as the City Manager at the City of Prince George at the end of 2006. While George was instrumental in shepherding many of the major changes in civic planning and infrastructure in Prince George during the 1990s and early 2000s, he is best remembered for helping establish the University of Northern British Columbia.

George's commitment to supporting professionalism in local government was unparalleled, and he provided advice to friends and colleagues, mentored many young professionals entering local government and was active in the LGMA throughout his career. He was always willing to assist wherever he could and was always very helpful to all those who asked. George served on the LGMA Board, retiring as Past President in 1989.

An exceptional human being, George's combination of professionalism, humour, empathy and zest for life enriched the communities for which he worked, his family and his colleagues. He had a mischievous streak and was well-known for his practical jokes. He was the kind of colleague whose company you enjoyed and the kind of man whose friendship you treasured.

George was committed to supporting local government throughout his long career, ready to lend an ear to seasoned colleagues and young professionals advancing through the ranks or to bounce ideas around or be a sounding board when time were tough. George's legacy of trust, respect and 'doing the right thing' is how he is remembered by all those who worked with him, worked alongside him, or were lucky enough to spend time with him. George passed away in Nanaimo on August 6, 2013.