

Background...SLGM

In the fall of 1983, Dr. Bert Einsiedel of Government Studies, U of A. met with ARMAA, ASBOA and LGAA Presidents and Executive Committees to discuss a common professional development strategy.

The Umbrella Association Organization, The Joint (Association) Professional Development Committee, was formed assuming responsibilities of the Advisory Committee and the Professional Development Committee and became known as the Joint Professional Development Committee.

This committee was comprised of three rurals, three urbans and B. Einsiedel of the U of A (Government Studies). This committee undertook the following:

- Terms of Reference, Missions and functions were developed
- Credentialing system
- Adjudication process for awarding designation
- Advised Government Studies on a comprehensive approach to professional development.
- Policies to enhance professional development

The Joint College of Local Government Management, as it was called at this juncture, focused was on a three tier education component. They were:

- citation,
- the local government certificate, and
- a senior management program.

Funding for the development of these programs was obtained from the provincial government by Municipal Affairs via Advance Education.

The Department of Municipal Affairs joined the group. Municipal Affairs and Government Studies sat at the table as non-voting advisors.

On November 14, 1983 the following was noted, " A Society of Public Administration is the long view. Today we are two separate associations with the common goal of professional development for our members. Both associations wish to maintain the integrity of the associations."

A target date of 31 December 1984 was set to provide adequate time for each association to meet with its membership and obtain their approval to move forward.

Dr. Edd LeSage, Director of Government Studies, returning from a Sabbatical Leave resumed his role as an advisor to the Committee and remained involved until his retirement.

During this time and over the next three years this committee worked with Government Studies to develop the:

- Citation Program, and
- the Senior Executive Fellows Program as well as the admission the requirements for the Senior Executive Fellows Program.

This committee also supported and worked with Government Studies on additional courses to be added to the Local Government Certificate Program.

Work on the Code of Ethics commenced during this time frame.

Tom Forgrave, Assistant Deputy Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs, wrote the legislation for the Joint College of Local Government Management with the support and endorsement of the Department of Municipal Affairs. At this time the Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act (POARA) had not been written and any profession seeking registration had to have their own Act.

The enactment of POARA in 1985 provided professions the opportunity to develop a regulation and register the profession. In February 1987 for the Bureau of Occupations and Professions was open for business and the Joint Associations Professional Development Committee obtained forms and begin work on the application.

The Joint Professional Development Committee tried to have the LGAA and ARMAA organizations included in the Regulation and were advised this could not be done and these two groups would have to make applications under POARA.

In 1987 the Joint College of Local Government Management was pursuing registration under POARA as was the Local Government Administrators Association with the support of the AUMA. Deputy Minister Archie Grover intervened asking the associations to work together to achieve this historic objective. The LGAA Executive withdrew their application.

ASBOA had removed themselves from the process as they believed there were enough differences between local government management and school business management to warrant a separate profession.

In the fall of 1987, Dr. Einsiedel (Government Studies) advised he could no longer spearhead the registration of the Joint College of Local Government Management. The Joint Professional Development Committee hired Jim Masson to lead the registration and establish the registers of members for the group.

The name of the group was changed to the Society of Local Government Managers of Alberta. Bylaws were established and approved and the SLGM was registered under the Society's Act in February of 1988. Work was ongoing to register the SLGM under POARA. A registration committee was struck to work with Mr. Masson. Dale Clark, Linda Davies and John McGowan Jr. worked with the Registrar of POARA and Mr. Masson to register the SLGM.

In 1988, Mr. Jim Masson left the project and Linda Davies became the secretary-treasurer

Work continued on the application. The regulation was developed and the bylaw was corrected to bring it in line with the POARA Statute and the proposed regulation. In 1990, the application was completed and filed with Professions and Occupations after a meeting with the membership to confirm the regulation, bylaws and mission statement.

The application contained the Local Government Managers Regulation, the bylaws, a list of members, a financial statement and a budget in addition to the actual application.

At the time of registration the application stated, " Both organizations recognized the need for professional development for senior managers and the requirement for continuing education for all members. In recognizing this need and given the number of constituents it was felt combining the rural and urban associations forming one professional association would satisfy their requirement for professional development."

"Both organizations recognized the need for professional development and continuing education for its senior members and donated \$5,000 each toward the establishment of the Society for the professional development of its members and also to develop a professional designation to award to manager who has completed pre-established education and experience requirements."

The application contained information on how the SLGM planned to prevent fraudulent and incompetent practices being inflicted on the public by its members in addition to the purpose of the SLGM.

The regulation was gazetted in early 1991 and the Society of Local Government Managers of Alberta was registered under POARA with the right to title CLGM. The Society's application was the fourth profession registered.

The Society hosted Joint Association Meetings annually from 1993 to 2009. Commencing in 2010, each association has hosted at least one of these meetings annually where areas of common concerns and interests are discussed.