



50 Questions for #CAMA50

**Gary Kent, Member-At-Large
(For Municipalities with a Population over 100,000)
Chief Financial Officer & Commissioner of Corporate
Services
Region of Peel, ON**

What is the best advice you have ever received?

In the Staff-Council relationship, always remember that it is Council who sets policy, based on professional advice from staff. Once a decision is made, staff need to accept it and implement. Also, although staff – elected officials' relationships ideally can be friendly, never confuse that with being friends; a good business rule for all our professional relationships.

What made you want to become part of the CAMA Board?

I have witnessed the value of CAMA and felt I was in a position to represent the larger scale of municipalities in the network.

In 50 words or less, how would you describe CAMA's value to a potential new member?

It is invaluable. Just sitting in a physical or virtual room and absorbing conversations about practical problems, potential solutions and real and emerging trends delivers a massive return on investment for the membership fee, whether you are a CAO or reporting to one.

Communication between different levels of government is crucial when it comes to great service delivery to constituents. What advice would you give about building good partnerships between municipal-regional/provincial-territorial/federal governments?

Be responsive to requests for benchmarking and questions of curiosity about how your organization is tackling issues. Turn up and visibly be present at strategic venues, such as CAMA and Provincial conferences and webinars and show that you and your organization are open to collaboration.