



50 Questions for #CAMA50

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What was your favourite CAMA Conference, and why?



There have been a lot of great ones, but my favourite would be the Fredericton one. It was so beautiful and there were so many cool places to see in the area - especially on the pre-conference visit to St. Andrews. All the sessions were great, but what made it memorable was the casual night out evening, seeing the sunset and listening to great music outdoors on that patio. It was a perfect night out, great venue, great food, and people.

If you created a university course about local government administration, what would the title be?

“The Importance of Relationship Building”

Most CAOS don't grow up imagining themselves in such a role. What were your career aspirations before local government? What led you to the CAO/City Manager profession?

I was always destined to be in local government and my early municipal work was in the recreation and parks field. I won my share of provincial and national awards in my career and was recruited to the Territorial Government for a number of years working for Municipal Affairs helping support development of more municipalities in the Northwest Territories, but I missed working at the local level and went back to that. As I honed my skills early in my career, I wanted to move up the ranks and was encouraged to become a CAO by my mentors to lead and support communities.

What is your leadership style? How has it helped you in your career?

My leadership style is dependent on the situation, but I would say a servant collaborative approach for the most part. I don't micromanage and trust my team. If I need to intervene I will but will also do my best to support. This approach has served me well and I would think others. I always feel my job is to develop and grow future leaders.

CAMA currently has seven (7) toolkits available for members. If you could choose the next toolkit topic, what would it be? Explain.

“How to build a socially inclusive community.” It's about learning how to have difficult conversations with marginalized and unrepresented demographics in your community to get to the real needs. It's learning how not to be afraid of the hard work which will develop in very rewarding results in the end.