



IMFG @ 20

Thursday,
January 30, 2025
2:00 p.m. –
6:30 p.m.

Celebrating
20 years
of IMFG

Campbell Conference Facility
Munk School of Global Affairs
and Public Policy
University of Toronto
| Devonshire Place



Welcome

Enid Slack,
IMFG Director

I can't believe it has been 20 years since Alan Broadbent and I co-founded the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG) at the University of Toronto. At that time, cities were asking for a new deal from the federal and provincial governments. Sound familiar? Since then, the world has continued to change in ways that affect the ability of cities to meet rising needs with limited tax sources. Cities are experiencing the effects of climate change, a rising infrastructure deficit, an increasing need for affordable housing, growing cyber security threats, and other challenges. Some progress has been made, but more needs to be done to make cities fiscally sustainable.


At IMFG, we see our role as elevating the debate on municipal finance and governance issues by publishing evidence-based research, convening roundtables and public events, and supporting nearly 40 graduate and postdoctoral students over the years who have pursued research on municipal finance and governance. We are proud of the people who have worked with IMFG and gone on to careers in academia, government, non-profits, and international organizations.



We have published more than 120 papers, including our successful Who Does What series on the role of municipalities in housing, economic development, climate change, immigration, and other policy areas. We have hosted more than 200 events, including the annual address of the City Manager of Toronto for 12 years, more recently an annual discussion with the CAOs of the regions around Toronto, as well as talks and conferences on a wide range of topics such as transit costs, development charges, metropolitan governance, and more.

I would like to thank our board and funders for their support over the last 20 years. I would also like to thank our many authors, presenters, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and visiting scholars who have contributed to IMFG's activities. And, of course, I thank the wonderful staff members who have helped make IMFG a success. I am thrilled that we have played a role in getting so many people to think about issues in municipal finance and governance.

There is much more to do! We plan to carry on our work over the coming years and hope you will continue be part of it.



Event Program

Opening Remarks

Shirley Hoy

Fireside Chat

Enid Slack and Alan Broadbent

Reflecting on 20 years of IMFG

Panel 1 • Governing Cities in 2045

Special Address: Meric Gertler

Panelists: Zack Taylor, Alexandra Flynn,

Gabriel Eidelman

Discussant: Zachary Spicer

Moderator: Selena Zhang

Panel 2 • Financing Cities in 2045

Special Address: David Miller

Panelists: Enid Slack, Adam Found, Matti Siemiatycki

Discussant: Almos Tassonyi

Moderator: André Côté

Closing Remarks

Shirley Hoy

Reception



Panelist Essays

As part of celebrating IMFG @ 20, panelists for today's program have written essays reflecting on governance and finance topics they have written for IMFG in the past, their thoughts on those topics today, and their views on how things will emerge 20 years from now.

Reflections on Who Does What

By Gabriel Eidelman

From Seeds to Canopies: Indigenous-Municipal Legal and Governance Relationships in Canada

By Alexandra Flynn

Reflecting upon the Case for Development Charges

By Adam Found

Resolving Infrastructure Cost Overruns: A Lost Decade

By Matti Siemietycki

Reflections on Municipal Finance

By Enid Slack

Local Governance: Gaps and Opportunities

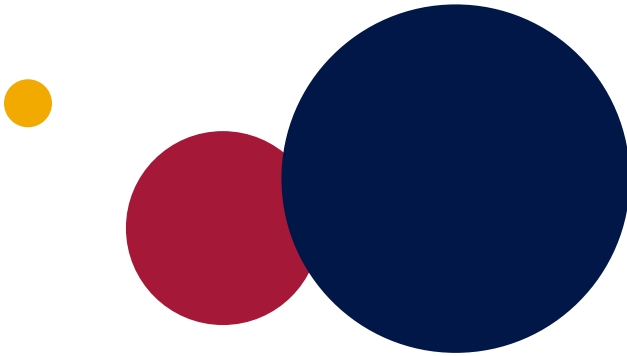
By Zack Taylor

Read the essays at imfg.org/imfg-at-20



Speakers

- **Alan Broadbent**, Chairman and CEO, Avana Capital and IMFG Board Chair
- **André Côté**, Director of Policy and Research at The Dias, Toronto Metropolitan University
- **Gabriel Eidelman**, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto and IMFG Faculty Fellow
- **Alexandra Flynn**, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia and IMFG Fellow
- **Adam Found**, Manager of Corporate Assets, City of Kawartha Lakes and IMFG Contributor
- **Meric Gertler**, President, University of Toronto
- **Shirley Hoy**, Senior Advisor, Strategy Corp and IMFG Board Member
- **David Miller**, Managing Director, C40 Centre for City Climate Policy and Economy



- **Matti Siemiatycki**, Professor, University of Toronto and IMFG Contributor
- **Enid Slack**, IMFG Director
- **Zachary Spicer**, Associate Professor, York University and IMFG Contributor
- **Almos Tassonyi**, IMFG Senior Associate
- **Zack Taylor**, Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario and IMFG Fellow
- **Selena Zhang**, Executive Officer, Advocacy and Engagement, Atkinson Foundation

Remembering Richard Bird



IMFG remembers Richard Bird, Senior Fellow at IMFG and Professor Emeritus of Economics in the Department of Economics and the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, who passed away in 2020.

Richard was enthusiastic about IMFG from its creation in 2004 and lent his support and encouragement by publishing papers in our research program, reviewing papers, advising graduate students, and participating in events.

Richard was known for his kindness toward colleagues and his generous support for young researchers. On a personal note, Richard was a mentor, colleague, and friend for over 40 years.

- Enid Slack



Special Thanks

The Institute's start-up was made possible by the significant support of Avana Capital Corporation.

IMFG is generously supported by the City of Toronto, the Regional Municipality of York, the Regional Municipality of Halton, the Regional Municipality of Durham, the Regional Municipality of Peel, Maytree, and Avana Capital Corporation.

IMFG @ 20

Thank you to IMFG staff Sonali Chakraborti and Piali Roy for their work to make this event a success. Thanks also to our work-study student Juhi Kosamia for her assistance.

Thank you to Philippa Campsie, editor for IMFG @ 20 essays, Sarah Craig of Maytree who designed this program, and Dina Graser for her wise counsel along the way.



About IMFG

IMFG focuses on the fiscal health and governance challenges facing large cities and city-regions. The Institute's mandate is to conduct independent research, spark and inform public debate, and to engage the academic and policy communities around important issues of municipal finance and governance.

IMFG is the only organization of its kind in Canada focused on municipal finance and governance issues. It undertakes a range of research and programming activities:

- Conducting original, independent, academic research on a range of finance and governance issues;
- Promoting and sharing our research and publications;
- Convening high-level roundtables and public events to engage discussion among Canada's government, academic, corporate, and community leaders;
- Supporting graduate and post-graduate students to build Canada's cadre of municipal finance and governance experts; and
- Hosting visiting scholars to share perspectives from other cities.

IMFG is an affiliated Institute of the School of Cities at the University of Toronto. Learn more at imfg.org.

Over 120 reports
published with more
than 150 Canadian and
international author
contributions

More than 40
graduate students and
post-doctoral fellows
supported to pursue
research on municipal
finance and governance
topics

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Over 200 events,
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conferences held to
spark policy debate
and discussion



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