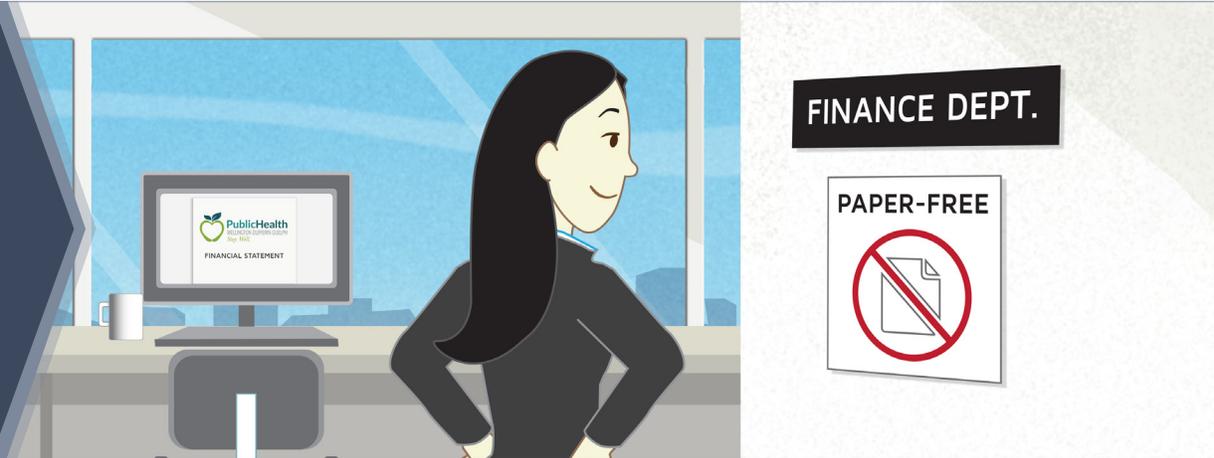


A Robust Solution for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health



Operating Budget:
\$27 million

Solutions:
Caseware Working Papers
Canadian Financials



Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health works to improve the health of 250,000 residents of Wellington and Dufferin counties and the city of Guelph with a wide range of health services and resources, including immunizations, dental care, parenting support services, travel information, and infectious disease control.

With 230 employees spread across six locations and an annual operating budget of \$27 million, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health embraces technology and the efficiencies it can provide to enable it to devote more resources to its mission. Caseware Working Papers and Canadian Financials are two pieces of technology the organization relies on to streamline the production of its financial statements.

Caseware for Municipalities

“We implemented Caseware in 2013,” recalls Shanna O’Dwyer, Manager of Finance for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. “My first year here at the organization I used Excel spreadsheets—and a lot of them—to produce the annual financial statements. I remember

being concerned through the entire cycle that something would get missed and not updated properly. It was a stressful time.”

O’Dwyer had used Caseware in her prior position with an accounting firm, so was familiar with the solution and its capabilities when she saw it in action at a Municipal Finance Officers conference. “I met F.H. Black and Company Incorporated at the conference and learned how they have successfully implemented Caseware for dozens of municipal organizations like ours across Canada,” she says. “We determined Caseware would be an ideal fit for us.”

Professional Implementation

The Caseware implementation went very well says O’Dwyer. “F.H. Black was fantastic. They were highly organized and very methodical in their approach. They kept the project on schedule and saw that we were informed and involved throughout the process.”

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health also appreciated the easy access to members of the F.H. Black’s consulting team. “We are able to

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CHALLENGE

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health sought to streamline and simplify the generation of its annual financial statements, which had been produced using dozens of spreadsheets.

SOLUTION

The organization worked with FHB to implement Caseware Working Papers and Canadian Financials after seeing the solutions in action, and learning of its successful use in other municipal organizations throughout Canada.

RESULTS

The quality and consistency of its annual financial statements are improved, and the time spent producing them is significantly reduced. Caseware can be leveraged to help produce quarterly statements as well.



Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

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Manager of Finance
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

view their calendars online and book a time slot that's convenient for us," O'Dwyer says. "But if we have an urgent matter, they are always directly available."

Simplifying Complex Tasks

After receiving training for the solution and the mechanics involved in generating the financial statement templates, O'Dwyer was able to create the organization's templates herself. She then set about duplicating the prior year's financial statements in Caseware as a proof of concept. "F.H. Black helped with the export of the trial balance data from our accounting system," O'Dwyer says. "It's complex data with many different departments, segments, and funds but with their help we got it done."

During the past fiscal year, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health has made a number of changes to its financial statement layout. "F.H. Black helped us modify the templates to meet our needs and we were good to go," says O'Dwyer. "It would have been a nightmare to try to incorporate all those changes if we were still using spreadsheets."

In subsequent years, O'Dwyer anticipates the time savings that Caseware will deliver will be substantial. "In a short time frame, we are able to produce accurate, consistent financial statements."

Quality, Confidence, and Control

Using Caseware has improved the quality of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's financial statements and made them more consistent O'Dwyer says. "Before Caseware, we were copying rows of data from our financial statements and dropping them into the spreadsheets.

Now we establish the account groupings in Caseware and it does the work for us. Changes made to the working papers flow to the statements so we are confident that it's right."

Previously, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's auditors would take the organization's spreadsheet data and produce the financial statements for them. Now, the organization produces its own statements through Caseware. "We feel we have much more control over the process now," says O'Dwyer.

Paperless Process

O'Dwyer says the first year with Caseware the organization continued its practice of building a paper binder, but that they have now eliminated paper entirely. "Caseware is so reliable and secure, and we are able to link various references to outside documents such as funding agreements, that we determined paper was no longer needed."

Streamline Quarterly Reporting

Building on the successful rollout of Caseware for its financial statement generation, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health plans to expand the solution's use to quarterly reporting. "We're still doing this in Excel, and there's no reason why Caseware can't be leveraged to help streamline this task as well," says O'Dwyer.

She concludes, "We are really pleased with Caseware. It has proven to be a real asset to us, and the great support we receive from F.H. Black makes it all the better."



For more than 25 years, F.H. Black & Company Incorporated has worked with finance and budget departments in government, education and corporations across North America to crush waste, & eliminate inefficiency.

Our mission is to ensure that our finance & budget departments do more with less, do it better than it was done before and do it in less time.

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