



# CASEWARE

## CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



### CUSTOMER

City of Mississauga

### LOCATION

Mississauga, Ontario

### Operating and Capital Budget

\$846 Million

### CaseWare Solutions

CaseWare Working Papers  
Canadian Financials

### Certified Consultant

F.H. Black & Company Incorporated

F.H. Black & Company Incorporated  
Efficient | Effective | Reliable

<http://government.fhblackinc.com>

## CaseWare Modernizes and Streamlines Financial Statement Generation for the City of Mississauga

Lying on the shores of Lake Ontario, Mississauga is the sixth largest city in Canada. The City of Mississauga is an efficient and well-run organization governed by the Mayor and 11 Councillors. The City provides services to the community in the areas of Fire and Emergency Services, Roads, Transit, Parks and Forestry, Environment, Libraries, Recreation, Land Development, Arts and Culture, Regulatory and Legislative Services, and other supporting city services. With a gross operating budget of \$671 million and a capital budget of \$175 million, the City relies on CaseWare Working Papers and Canadian Financials to ensure its financial statements are in good order and completed accurately and on time.



“All the documents were independent of each other,” adds Barbara Campbell-Graves, the City’s Supervisor of Accounting. “If you made a change in one worksheet, you had to locate that data in several other documents and change it there too. There was always a concern that there would be errors or missing data.”

### Replace Dozens of Spreadsheets

“We began using CaseWare to produce our annual financial statements just one year ago,” explains Mark Beuparlant, Manager of Corporate Financial Services for the City. “Before that we used literally dozens of Excel spreadsheets and Word documents.”

Beuparlant describes the financial statement preparation process as very time consuming. “We’d put together a financial statement preparation model years ago, intending for it to be temporary until we could devise a better method. To date, we hadn’t found a solution that met our needs.”

### Right Product. Right Partner

Beuparlant and Campbell-Graves were introduced to CaseWare at a Municipal Finance Officers Association webcast, where the solution was represented by F.H. Black & Company Incorporated, a CaseWare Consulting firm.

“It immediately caught our interest,” says Campbell-Graves. “CaseWare was exactly what we needed, and F.H. Black has extensive experience implementing it for municipalities like ours.”

The City performed its due diligence and generated Request for Proposal documents,

### CHALLENGE

Like many municipalities, the City of Mississauga relied on dozens of spreadsheets and documents to produce its annual financial statements. The process was time-consuming and potentially error prone.

### SOLUTION

The City implemented CaseWare Working Papers and Canadian Financials with assistance from F.H. Black & Company Incorporated, a firm with broad expertise in municipal accounting.

### RESULTS

The efficiencies delivered with CaseWare allow the City’s financial team to devote more time for analysis and review—rather than focusing on the mechanics of producing the annual financial statements.

*“Through the efficiencies provided by CaseWare, we have more time to analyze the numbers and we won’t feel so rushed throughout the production of the financial statements.”*

Barbara Campbell-Graves  
Supervisor of Accounting

## **About CaseWare International Inc.**

Accountants and auditors in practices large and small, in corporations, and government recognize CaseWare International as the premier creator of assurance, reporting and analysis tools. In over 130 countries, the CaseWare family of products helps accounting professionals perform their work more easily and efficiently.

receiving several bids in response. “In our final evaluation, CaseWare was the best product available at the best price,” says Beauparlant.

### **Professional Implementation**

Both Beauparlant and Campbell-Graves appreciate the consulting and support services they receive through F.H. Black. “They helped us set up the templates, load our prior year numbers, and replicate the prior year’s report to ensure we had everything set up correctly,” says Campbell-Graves.

“F.H. Black understands municipal accounting,” says Beauparlant. “There’s a tremendous knowledge base within the company and they use that knowledge to come up with strategic recommendations that really help us leverage the software to our best advantage.”

### **Beautifully Simple**

Using CaseWare, the prior year data rolls forward, the trial balance is uploaded, adjusting entries are entered, and the majority of the work is complete.

“In the past, the auditors would come in and we would be constantly opening workbooks and changing worksheets, making the necessary additions and adjustments,” says Campbell-Graves. “Now it’s a much simpler, more straightforward process.”

“It’s beautifully simple,” adds Beauparlant. “Now, all of our working papers are in one document and they are completely integrated. If we change a number in one place, the change flows through to all the related documents.”

“CaseWare has brought a tremendous amount of efficiency and time savings to our financial reporting tasks,” adds Campbell-Graves.

### **Industry-Standard Tool**

“Our auditors are very happy with our new system,” says Beauparlant. “They use CaseWare internally, so they are very familiar with it. Our auditing contract goes out to bid this year, and we’ll be certain to note in our proposal request that we are using CaseWare as we fully expect that it will make the bids more competitive.”

### **Delivering Value Beyond the Annual Financial Statements**

The City is also using CaseWare to help complete the required Financial Information Return (FIR) required by the Province. “We had been doing all of the schedules manually,” explains Campbell-Graves. “We’re already using CaseWare to produce several of the schedules and think we can automate the majority of them by next year. That will really cut the time it takes us to produce the return.”

### **Time for Analysis and Review**

In the past, financial statement generation and the surrounding tasks might take several months, and staff always felt rushed. “It was a long and involved process before CaseWare,” concludes Campbell-Graves. “Through the efficiencies provided by CaseWare, we have more time to analyze the numbers and we won’t feel so rushed throughout the production of the financial statements. I think this may be the single biggest benefit of the software.”



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