

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct23_2018

REPORT FOR INFORMATION**Municipal Government Act Implementation Update****Report Purpose**

This report provides a status update on Strathcona County's response to the various Municipal Government Act and associated regulation changes.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Governance Requirement

Continuously improving the way we work, as one organization, in an agile and sustainable manner

Report

The changes to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) fall into three broad categories: Assessment and Taxation; Governance and Administration; and Planning and Development and were passed in three amending bills:

- Bill 20 – Municipal Government Amendment Act – passed in March 2015
- Bill 21 – Modernized Municipal Government Act – passed May 2016
- Bill 8 – An Act to Strengthen Municipal Government – passed April 2017

Most of the changes contained in the 3 amending bills and their associated regulations came into force on October 26, 2017; however, the remaining amendments and associated regulations came into force in phases: some becoming effective on January 1, 2018 and others in April 2018. Many of the changes also include a grace period. For example, amendments related to the Code of Conduct for elected officials came into force on October 26, 2017, but municipalities had 9 months (270 days) to comply with the amended legislation and new regulation. Likewise, municipalities have until January 1, 2019 to comply with amendments related to the transparency of non-statutory planning documents which came into force on January 1, 2018.

While there are quite a few changes introduced by way of the three bills noted above, many of the changes will not impact Strathcona County significantly since County's current practice may already align with or exceed the requirements of the amended Act and associated regulations.

In order to ensure that the County's policies, bylaws, and practices are compliant with the updated legislation, Administration has been working cooperatively to review the legislation against our current state, identify any gaps, and develop a plan to address those gaps.

When addressing the gaps requires a decision of Council, whether by resolution or bylaw, Administration prepares the necessary reports and provides a presentation to Council. For example, in October 2017, Council approved the Designated Officer Bylaw as well as new bylaws for the Assessment Review Board and the Subdivision Development Board. These bylaw updates were required in order to align with the changes in the MGA.

Administration has prepared a report on the progress made towards addressing the various actions related to the MGA changes and requirements (see enclosure 1).

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Other Impacts**Policy:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** The Municipal Government Act is the key legislative framework for municipal governments.**Interdepartmental:** Legislative and Legal Services continues to work with all departments impacted by changes to the MGA including: Communications, Intergovernmental Affairs, Corporate Finance, Corporate Planning, Planning & Development Services, Human Resources, Assessment & Tax, and Transportation Planning & Engineering**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a**Enclosure**

1 MGA Status Updates