

Municipal Government Act Regulation Status

Subject Matter	Identified Regulation (if applicable)	Date of Coming into Force	Reviewing Department(s)	Status Update from Administration
Governance and Administration				
Orientation Training		July 1, 2017 Training must be offered within 90 days after councillor takes oath of office.	LLS	Strathcona County has complied with and exceeded the MGA changes and regulation on Council Orientation. Further Council Orientation activities took place in February and March of 2018.
Public Participation Policy	Public Participation Policy Regulation	October 26, 2017 Policy must be in place by July 23, 2018 (9 months after the regulation came into force) .	COMS	Strathcona County already had such a policy. Only minor updates were required, which were approved by Council on March 27, 2018. The County is compliant with all requirements of the regulation.
Code of Conduct for Elected Officials	Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Regulation	October 26, 2017 Code of Conduct must be in place by July 23, 2018.	LLS	Council passed the Code of Conduct Bylaw on June 19, 2018.
Intermunicipal Collaborative Frameworks	Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Regulation	April 1, 2018 ICFs must be in place by April 1, 2020 (within two years of the regulation coming into force).	IA	<p>Through the regulation Strathcona County will have to complete three ICFs with our neighbours in Bruderheim, Lamont County and Beaver County. All other neighbouring municipalities are also members of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and because the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan will act as an ICF for these 13 municipalities no other ICFs are required.</p> <p>In anticipation of the ICF regulation being released and coming into force in April 2018, IA continues to work with departments to do a scan of the current agreements in place with these three municipalities. IA staff attended a session at the spring RMA convention and in Leduc County about the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Workbook, created in collaboration by Municipal Affairs, AUMA and RMA. Hosting a workshop using this workbook with neighbours is also being explored.</p>
Municipal Corporate Planning	Municipal Corporate Planning Regulation	October 26, 2017. The first financial plans to be prepared by the end of 2019 and cover 2020-2022 (financial) or 2020-2024 (capital) period.	CF CP	<p>Strathcona County is in the process of finalizing 4 year business plans with corresponding budgets attached to them. As well, the County is creating 5 year capital plans at the same time. Both of these processes align with the new requirements within the regulation. Budget process will begin in October 2018 and is expected to conclude in December 2018.</p> <p>The regulation indicates that the minimum standard for the financial plan must include total revenues and expenses by major category, the annual surplus or deficit, and the accumulated surplus or deficit. Strathcona County presents the revenues and expenses by major category for the upcoming year and we will incorporate this same approach to the future years as well. We will continue to budget based on a balanced budget however that translates into the PSAS statements as a surplus/deficit which accumulates.</p>

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				<p>The regulation indicates that the minimum standard for the capital plan must include planned capital property additions and allocated or anticipated funding sources. Strathcona County has previously been fulfilling this requirement within current practices.</p> <p>The new regulation also establishes that municipalities must prepare the plans in the beginning of the second year the MGA is proclaimed. All of the above will be valid for our 2019 business plan and budget year and include the 2019 – 2022 timeframe for operating budgets and business plans and the 2019–2023 capital plan.</p>
Council Meetings	Council and Council Committee Meeting Regulation	October 26, 2017	LLS	The required changes to the practices related to Council meetings have been implemented. Minute documents have been updated by including the names and reason for each person in attendance during closed sessions and FOIP section for each closed session item is now noted in the minutes as well as on agendas. Practices around going in and out of closed session have also been adjusted.
Collaboration with Indigenous Communities		October 26, 2017	IA	<p>The changes to the legislation will allow municipalities to invite neighbouring Indigenous communities to collaborate on future regional service delivery and enter into agreements with them. As well municipalities will be required to notify neighbouring Indigenous communities of any new municipal development plans or area structure plans.</p> <p>Strathcona County does not have any neighbouring Indigenous communities and these changes to the legislation will not impact us.</p>
Streamlining Bylaw Revisions		October 26, 2017	LLS	The MGA changes did not improve the process for bylaw revisions and clerical corrections. They added more complexity and made the process more onerous. The Clerk will prepare an annual amending bylaw to address clerical changes and this practice will become part of our 2019 and following Bylaw Overhaul Program. The process for addressing clerical amendments may be useful if we wish to avoid a Public Hearing on a minor clerical land use or MDP bylaw change.
Petitioning Process		October 26, 2017	LLS	<p>The timeline to validate a petition has been extended from 30 to 45 days. The MGA now recognizes that personal information of petitioners must be protected and kept confidential. The CAO can only disclose the personal information for the purpose of validating the petition.</p> <p>Council may by bylaw do any or all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the percentage required for petitions to Council. Currently it is 10% of the current population. The current population is 98,381. 10% would equal 9,838. 2. Allow petitioners to remove their names from a petition to Council by filing a statutory declaration with the CAO not later than 14 days after the petition is filed with the CAO. 3. Provide for petitions to Council to be signed electronically and modify certain requirements to the extent Council considers necessary or appropriate for that purpose.

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				<p>4. Allow for petitions to be filed electronically. There are no procedures or guidelines in place to accept an online petition.</p> <p>5. Extend the time period for collecting signatures. The current timeline is 60 days.</p> <p>There are no regulations governing those areas that could be passed in a bylaw. Any changes to our current petitioning processes could have a significant impact on County resources.</p>
Public Notification Methods		October 26, 2017	PDS LLS COMS	This is a permissive provision and would require Council direction to prepare a bylaw. If moving to electronic notification, Council must be satisfied that the approach would be as effective as current practice, but there are some serious challenges in the county (e.g. reliable internet for some areas). LLS and PDS would not recommend using this approach. We currently use notification via newspapers, internet, and mail which seems to be working well for the County. This matter could be revisited every 3 years.
Roles and Responsibilities of Council and Administration		October 26, 2017	LLS	No impact to Strathcona County since we already had a Chief Commissioner's bylaw that set out the main functions/duties of that office.
Parental Leave		October 26, 2017	HR LLS	Council direction to Administration is required on this matter. HR notes that consideration on how parental leave interfaces with the illness coverage included in the elected officials' benefit policy would need to be examined.
Municipal Amalgamation (Notification Process)		October 26, 2017	IA	Strathcona County is currently not initiating any amalgamation processes and given our status as a Specialized Municipality it is unlikely that we will initiate this process in the near future. In the event that Strathcona County does initiate amalgamation administration would ensure the process outlined within the regulation is followed.
Municipal Amalgamation (Report of Negotiation)		October 26, 2017	IA	Strathcona County is currently not initiating any amalgamation processes and given our status as a Specialized Municipality it is unlikely that we will initiate this process in the near future. In the event that Strathcona County does initiate amalgamation administration would ensure the process outlined within the regulation is followed.
Planning and Development				
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) Training Requirements	Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Regulation	April 1, 2018 Training must be completed by April 1, 2019.	LLS	The new regulation requires all SDAB members and clerks to complete a training program "set or approved" by the Minister. These programs are now underway. LLS clerks have completed their training and board member training will be completed in January 2019.

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Transparency of Non-Statutory Planning Documents		January 1, 2018 All planning policy documents must be listed and published by January 1, 2019.	PDS LLS	Strathcona is already compliant with this requirement: hierarchy of planning documents (shows the inter-relationship between plans) chart and links to external plans. MDP, ASPs and ACPs are already on the website. New MDP does not provide for conceptual schemes; but transitional provisions in place for conceptual schemes.
Municipal Development Plans		April 1, 2018 MDPs must be in place by April 1, 2021 (within three years of it coming into force)		SC has had a MDP in place for some time. The new MDP was approved by Council on Sept 5, 2017.
Conservation Reserve		October 26, 2017	PDS LLS	Permissive provision. The County may consider purchase of conservation reserves when appropriate and these purchases would be brought to Council. This action would require an MDP amendment and the amendments to the MDP are considered moderate priority and will be brought forward if/when required.
Off-site Levies (Expanded Scope)	Off-site Levies Regulation	October 26, 2017	PDS LLS FIN	Workshop / orientation with Council on March 2, 2018. Until advised by Council, Administration is not contemplating using the expanded scope and will continue with current practices (voluntary contribution for recreation).
Off-site Levies (Intermunicipal)	Off-site Levies Regulation	October 26, 2017	PDS LLS	No formal plans at present; however, Administration is aware of the issue and has had informal discussions with neighbouring municipalities.
Provincial Transportation Referrals	Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Regulation	Sections of the legislation came into force on October 26, 2017. November 1, 2017, the regulation came into force.	PDS LLS	SC has always been required to do this as a Specialized municipality. We do this within 800 meters (higher standard).
Land Use Policies		October 26, 2017	PDS LLS	No an issue at present. Strathcona County is part of the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan but this has not been completed. Administration will continue to monitor.
Hierarchy and Relationships of Plans		October 26, 2017	PDS LLS	The MGA confirms the hierarchy of plans both for PDS and SDAB. No action is required here.
Impartiality of Appeal Boards		January 1, 2018	LLS	Municipalities must ensure that municipal councillors do not form the majority of any legislated appeal board hearing panel. Strathcona County has complied with this requirement for several years. The recent ARB and SDAB bylaws explicitly note that elected officials are not eligible to be members of those boards.
Joint Use and Planning Agreements	Amendments will be made to both the MGA and the School Act and regulations under this	These legislative provisions are NOT in force. Related sections of legislation and regulation are anticipated April 1, 2018.	PDS LLS	Strathcona County has in place site allocation agreements, lease and transfer agreements, reciprocal use agreements in place with the school board . We will need to review all existing agreements and work with the Schools Boards to ensure that everything required in the legislation is addressed. LLS believes that the most strategic option would be NOT to rush through this process since it is likely that

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	Act.	The agreements must be in place within 3 years of related sections coming into force.		there will be some useful templates and models to follow as the changes are province wide and the School Boards and the County need some time for discussion and digesting this new reality.
<i>Assessment and Taxation</i>				
Access to Information for Assessors and Property Owners	Matters Relating to Assessment and Taxation Regulation	January 1, 2018	AT LLS	Strathcona County is compliant with these requirements. The changes introduced to the MGA did not mean any significant departure from the County's current processes.
Corrections to Assessment under Complaint	Matters Relating to Assessment and Taxation Regulation	January 1, 2018	AT LLS	Strathcona County is compliant with these requirements. The changes introduced to the MGA did not mean any significant departure from the County's current processes.
Linking Residential and Non-Residential Tax Rates	*A regulation will be developed to require non-conforming municipalities to comply with the tax ratio over time.	May 31, 2016	AT LLS	Strathcona County is compliant with these requirements. It is unlikely that Strathcona County would have a future ratio greater than 5:1 between its highest non-residential and lowest residential tax rate. The 2017 ratio was 2.00.
Splitting the Non-Residential Property Classes	Matters Related to Assessment Sub-Classes Regulation	January 1, 2018	AT LLS	<p>This regulation is new. Council has the option, under Section 297 MGA & MRAS, to approve a bylaw that splits the municipal non-residential property class into subclasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant non-residential property • Small business property • Other non-residential property <p>The "small business property" municipal tax rate can then be set up to 25% less than the "other non-residential property" municipal tax rate. Eligible businesses would have to meet the criteria in the bylaw, including number of employees and effective dates. However, the splitting of non-residential property classes would require careful analysis and planning prior to implementation. It would be important for both Council and Administration to have a full understanding of the cost implications to the County and other taxpayers before making an informed decision on this matter. It should be noted that Strathcona County's position to allow for a higher Machinery & Equipment tax rate, relative to "Other non-residential," was not contemplated.</p>
Centralization of Industrial	Matters Relating to Assessment and	January 1, 2018	AT LLS	Centralization of industrial property assessment is an important change for Strathcona County since a significant portion of the County's assessment base is related to "designated industrial properties" or

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Property Assessment	Taxation Regulation			<p>DIPs (i.e. major plants, properties regulated by provincial and federal regulators, linear property, and rail property).</p> <p>The MGA change means that the assessment of DIPs will be centralized within Municipal Affairs rather than conducted by municipalities. This centralization took effect on January 1, 2018; however, Municipal Affairs was not prepared to fulfill this role and thus has opted to contract back the assessment work in certain cases, as a Hybrid Model (e.g. Strathcona County has negotiated a three-year contract with Municipal Affairs) . This hybrid model is a favorable outcome since the County maintains autonomy over this significant part of our tax base and avoids a more costly audit/appeal alternative.</p> <p>Full implications of this change are unknown at this time, but Assessment and Tax and the County’s Chief Commissioner have been very engaged on this matter and have been working with the Province to address the implementation of this change. Provincial annual costs to implement and administer Centralization will be recovered through a DIP requisition, applicable to DIP tax notices only.</p>
Centralization of Industrial Property Assessment (Access to Assessment Information)	Matters Relating to Assessment and Taxation Regulation	January 1, 2018	AT LLS	There are new access rights for a municipality to receive information on Designated Industrial Properties, prepared by the Provincial Assessor (this is somewhat moot, considering we have entered into a term contractual relationship to prepare those same assessments, but might be important in future years).
Assessment and Taxation of Farm Buildings (Improvements)	Matters Relating to Assessment and Taxation Regulation	January 1, 2018	AT LLS	Support the phase out of ‘farm building’ assessment/taxation in the Urban Service Area, in order to re-establish tax equity between urban and rural farm operations. Unfortunately, similar equity concerns remain for ‘farm residences’, that despite stakeholder feedback, the GOA did not address. This means we will have to continue the annual practice of cancelling this tax differential by way of a Council through Section 347 MGA.
Assessment of Farmland Intended for Development	Matters Relating to Assessment and Taxation Regulation	January 1, 2018	AT LLS	Strathcona County is compliant with these requirements. The changes introduced to the MGA did not mean any significant departure from the County’s current processes.
Brownfields		January 1, 2018	AT PDS LLS	<p>PDS noted that this provision would not be applicable to the County at this time.</p> <p>Assessment and Tax noted that there would be tax redistribution implications if the new MGA</p>

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				provisions related to Brownfields were to be pursued by the County. There would also be costs associated with implementing and administering such provisions. Overall, there are likely few areas in the County considered brownfields.
Notice of Assessment		January 1, 2018	AT LLS	Strathcona County is compliant with these provisions. The change to these provisions meant some minor process adjustments. The change added more clarity to the legislated requirements.
Tax Receipts		These legislative provisions are NOT in force. Related sections of legislation and regulation are anticipated April 1, 2018.	AT LLS	Strathcona County is complaint with this requirement. The change meant minor adjustments to the County's tax notices and some additional administrative work.
Off-site Levies (Provincial Transportation)		These legislative provisions are NOT in force. Related sections of legislation and regulation are anticipated April 1, 2018.	TPE PDS	Current County levy model is only for the urban service area and thus would not include any high ways outside of that area. Further comment will be provided once the regulation and legislation are available.
Municipally Controlled Corporations		These legislative provisions are NOT in force. Related sections of legislation and regulation are anticipated April 1, 2018.	CF LLS	Not an option that is being considered at this point in time; however, could be an option that is pursued at a later date.
Compliance with linked Tax Rate Ratio		The related sections of legislation and the regulation coming into force dates have yet to be determined.	AT	No impact to Strathcona County. The 2017 ratio was 2.00, well below the 5:1 minimum.
Community Organization Property Tax Exceptions	Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation	Current regulation will be extended until December 31, 2019. It is expected that the updated regulation will come into force on January 1, 2020.	AT LLS	The new regulation has been deferred until 2020 tax year. No action is required at this time. Assessment and Tax is actively participating GOA stakeholder engagement and committees.
Tax Exemptions for Community Organizations		The related sections of legislation and the regulation coming into force dates have yet to be determined.	AT LLS	The new regulation has been deferred. No action is required at this time. Assessment and Tax is actively participating GOA stakeholder engagement and committees.