

Department business plan update

Intergovernmental Affairs

March 9, 2021

Department overview

- Reporting directly to the Chief Commissioner, IA advises elected officials and staff on intergovernmental issues that affect the County, and provides advice to support Strathcona County's interests, while balancing the needs of the region and sub-region.
- Intergovernmental Affairs coordinates and facilitates information-gathering and analysis to help Council and the organization make informed decisions for the long-term prosperity of Strathcona County.
- The Intergovernmental Affairs team comprises:
 - Manager
 - Strategists (2)
 - Policy Analyst
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Indigenous Policy Analyst Intern (P/T)

Core business functions

- 1 Intergovernmental Affairs
- 2 Intergovernmental Policy Analysis

Core function highlights

1 Intergovernmental Affairs

Foster relationships and partnerships with other levels of government, neighbouring municipalities, and through civic organizations

- Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB)
- Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
- Treaty Relationship Renewal Network (TRRN)

Core function highlights

2 Intergovernmental Policy Analysis

Provide information, analysis, and internal coordination of intergovernmental issues and initiatives

- Reviewing, with LLS, changes to legislation
- Environmental and interjurisdictional scanning
- Integrating recommendations from *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* of Canada to new policy and processes
- Coordinating the Indigenous working group, which works to share and collaborate on relevant issues across administration
- Coordinating and creating resources to integrate Indigenous values into the County and facilitating relationships with Indigenous stakeholders
- Representing Strathcona County on the regional Treaty Relationship Renewal Network

Successes and challenges

- Success
 - ICF agreements with Beaver County and Bruderheim; continuing discussions with Lamont County
 - Internal Indigenous Working Group established
 - Diversity and inclusion policies passed by Council
 - Council Advocacy Priorities updated
 - Elected Officials supported on intermunicipal Boards and Committees
- Challenges
 - Responding to legislative changes regarding intermunicipal relationships
 - Changes to the legislative/political landscape
 - Integrating the Diversity and Inclusion Policy and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action into new initiatives

COVID Impacts

- Staff impacts
 - N/A, team remains at full capacity
 - Team is working remotely while retaining a high level of engagement
- Service impacts
 - Due to reduced travel requirements, staff has increased productivity. Access to departmental staff and intermunicipal counterparts remains high
- Financial impacts
 - Reduced expenses (e.g. travel, office supplies)

Employee engagement

Engagement survey theme	Engagement initiative	People Plan focus area
Communication	Share intermunicipal and interdepartmental collaboration initiatives and successes with the organization through regular updates to the Branch's Insider page.	Team
Communication	Increase information sharing within the branch by enhancing our current "open door" model where team members propose ideas to other team members for discussion and debate.	Team
Staff and resources	Provide staff with the tools to do their work and encourage staff to apply their skills in their job	Accountability
Career growth, staff and resources	Support innovative approaches to professional development	Leadership

Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks

Overall initiative status



Initiative status	Current status	Previous status
Time	G	G
Scope	G	G
Budget	G	G

Alignment to strategic goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 5: Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships Result: Regional assets leveraged for mutual benefit Goal 2: Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure Result: Partnerships enhance infrastructure investment opportunities Goal 1: Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents Result: Affordable basic municipal services

Key deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICF with Lamont County completed by April 1, 2021. ICFs with Bruderheim and Beaver County were completed prior to the original April 1, 2020 deadline

Opportunities/Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal partners may not wish to continue with an ICF agreement.

Risks	Mitigation
Direction from Municipal Affairs changes regarding the requirement to complete ICFs with additional municipalities (e.g. Growth Management Board neighbours).	Existing relationships will help the completion of these agreements.
No additional time provided by Municipal Affairs to complete ICF agreements with other GMB members.	Administration will endeavour to meet deadlines.
Unforeseen outcomes of the ICF process.	Strong engagement/collaborative relationship with municipal partners that have an ICF. Frequent reviews of the agreement.

Indigenous Relations Portfolio

Overall initiative status



Initiative status	Current status	Previous status
Time	G	G
Scope	G	G
Budget	G	G

Alignment to strategic goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 5: Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result: Ensure Strathcona County is a welcoming community for Indigenous residents and supports reconciliation efforts Goal 1: Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result: Streamlining communication, increasing collaboration, and relationship-building between Indigenous Nations and municipalities in the region to further reconciliation efforts

Risks	Mitigation
Improperly presenting Protocol or following engagement strategy with Indigenous Nations	Ensuring Council and staff have access to proper Protocol information and resources
Change in leadership of relevant stakeholder groups such as The Confederation of Treaty 6 and the Métis Nation of Alberta	Creating transition plan for turnover of stakeholder leadership to continue building relationships
Change in Council	Integrating training and information into the Council Orientation materials, stressing the importance of maintaining and building on current relationships

Key deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Land Acknowledgment Policy Development of an interjurisdictional scan to identify best practices in Canadian municipalities Knowledge hub for administration Updated Council orientation materials to include Indigenous information Facilitation of relationship-building for County and Indigenous stakeholders Provide input and support to County engagements and initiatives Participate in the Treaty Relationship Renewal Network Work with internal and external partners to promote Indigenous events and celebrate relevant historical dates

Opportunities/Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Indigenous partners to create meaningful engagement Focus on furthering the government-to-government relationship with Indigenous Nations Strengthening the Indigenous Working Group Updating policies and written history to more accurately foster relations with Indigenous residents and neighbouring communities Accurately understanding various First Nation’s engagement strategies Building lasting partnerships with existing turn-over structure at the Confederacy of Treaty Six Propose activities for the County which work towards the recommendations of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report

Questions?

