

Summary of Councillor Feedback on 2017 Orientation

Question	Response
What sessions did you find most valuable?	<p>Feedback was positive on the orientation sessions, the most valuable sessions mentioned included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Cuff session on governance (some noted that it was more useful for new councillors) • Blanket exercise • Media session (more focus on needs of elected officials and social media desired) • What You Heard (some noted that it was more useful for new councillors) <p>Feedback was divided between very positive and very negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Nalbandian session on leadership and governance • Eli Mina on parliamentary procedure
What did you think about the regional sessions?	<p>Regional sessions were well received overall and the opportunity for networking was identified as desirable.</p> <p>Some noted that certain sessions, such as George Cuff on Governance, should have been reserved for Council only and not a regional session. Others enjoyed the regional approach to such a session.</p>
What went well? Why?	<p>Information provided was useful and several sessions were mentioned in particular: land use planning, governance, PPB/finance, divisional presentations, technology demonstration, key issues documents, what we heard session.</p> <p>Having off days and breaks throughout orientation was also appreciated.</p>
What could be improved? How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal session with external counsel was too long and not sufficiently engaging or participatory. • Eli Mina session was too long and not as engaging. • More emphasis on social media and help with how to handle. Media session should be more tailored for elected officials. • Team building opportunities should be offsite.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more time for internal logistics such as NOM, IR, etc. • Divisional presentations were too detailed – would be better to have more detailed sessions later. • Move Library and HHF to later (presentation at Priorities Committee). • Bus tour was valuable but use it as an opportunity to get elected officials more involved in speaking to their ward. • More follow up and reminders about resources available and move supports for council earlier in the orientation. • Clarify learning objectives for each session.
What would you add/remove from the orientation program?	<p>Add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team building time for council as a whole and more time with E-Team (what we heard session had too many participants) • Networking time (regional and council) • Indigenous history • More practice time for council meeting/procedures and public hearing process • More on procedural rules and include a 6-month refresher • Information on developers (perhaps other groups that tend to lobby council) • Financing options for the municipality and information on core financial concepts (debt limits, reserves, requisitions, etc.) • FAQs on finance issues to be used with residents (e.g. reserves, funding, debt, property tax) • Departmental tours / visits <p>Remove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Nalbandian session • Less time with external lawyers • Shorter sessions
What did you think about the structure of the orientation? Was it too compressed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal session could have been later in the program • Individual sessions on finance to determine base-level of knowledge • Ensure that Planning 101 (i.e. planning overview) occurs before any more detailed discussions on land planning issues in Strathcona County • Yes, too compressed but likes the changes over the previous orientations