

Council Orientation

May 11, 2021

2021 Orientation Overview

- Requirements
- Goals
- Lessons Learned from 2017
- Considerations for 2021
- Overview of Strathcona County plan



Requirements

- MGA s. 201(1) address requirements for “Orientation Training” and includes a list of mandated topics.
- Includes timeline as well as list of topics
- Municipal Code of Conduct Bylaws should also address orientation in terms of attendance.
- Any requirements outlined in a municipality’s policies or procedures should also be considered.

Goals

1. Relationship building - establish a foundation for a positive relationship between council and administration.
2. Team building – provide an opportunity for team building amongst members of the new council.
3. Knowledge building - support the incoming council to be successful in its governing role.

Lessons Learned from 2017

- Pacing and well planned breaks are critical
- More is not always better
- Timing of sessions must correspond with council needs
- Need to balance the needs of individuals with that of council as a whole
- Ensure that the objectives and key points for each session are clear
- Include time for one-on-one debriefs and touch points
- Team building matters a lot (council, council and admin, regional)

Considerations

- Use of virtual delivery due to COVID-19:
 - Length and breaks
 - Engagement with material
 - Meaningful opportunities for teambuilding
 - Swearing-in ceremony and Oath of Office
- Structure of Orientation Plan
 - Timing of material to address needs (e.g. procedures training, budget related training)
 - Balance between needs of returning and new elected officials
 - Support resources (e.g. hard and soft copies and group versus individual)
 - Evaluation and follow up sessions as required
- Who Delivers What Material
 - Use of internal resources
 - Strategic use of external resources
 - Regional partnerships



feedback