



2022 - 2025 DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN

Intergovernmental Affairs

Date of last revision
APRIL 2022



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER



The Intergovernmental Affairs (IA) team plays an integral role in implementing, maintaining, and fostering strategic relationships for the organization, the community, and Council. This is accomplished through providing outreach support, building relationships, policy analysis, project management, and an extensive suite of organizational participation and information products.

The branch provides information and advice to Council and administration in support of Strathcona County's participation in the following organizations:

- Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association (AIHA)
- Edmonton Global
- Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Board (EMRB)
- Intermunicipal Affairs Committee (IAC)
- Intermunicipal Relations Committees (IMRC)
- Local Government Administrators Association (LGAA)
- Metro Mayors Alliance (MMA)
- Treaty Relationship Renewal Network (TRRN)
- Mid-Sized Cities Mayors Caucus (MCMC)
- Northern Alberta Mayors & Reeves Caucus (NAMRC)

We also support Council and the organization to participate as municipal members of the Alberta Municipalities (AB Munis), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA).

IA advocates and collaborates with the provincial and federal governments on many important issues that affect our residents. The branch participates in many fora and analyzes and coordinates input on proposed federal and provincial legislative initiatives.

The branch also leads Strathcona County's approach to Indigenous Relations and the implementation of the TRC Calls to Action. Through intentional and reciprocal partnerships, the County is actively establishing and strengthening relations with regional First Nations, Métis Settlements, the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, and the Métis Nation of Alberta.

The branch has grown, and this has enabled its evolution both in its operational systems and scope of work. We continue to work on system and service level improvements.

Nancy Lyzaniwski

PLANNING FOUNDATION

STRATHCONA COUNTY VISION

Living in Strathcona County

Strathcona County, located in the heart of Alberta, is an energetic and thriving community. A leader in North America's petroleum industry and a champion for advancing diverse agricultural business, we use our energy to power our new tomorrow.

We are a specialized municipality and work cooperatively with our urban and rural residents to govern as a single municipality. Proud of our distinct governance model, we promote and demonstrate our achievements.

We are a welcoming place to live and attract people of all ages, cultures and walks of life to join us. Families thrive in our dynamic, caring and safe community.

We strive to be a model of ecological integrity, protecting our environment and preserving our agricultural heritage.

Investment in infrastructure, quality services, cultural and recreational programs, and facilities is a priority and sets us apart.



Goal 1

Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents



Goal 5

Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships



Goal 2

Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure



Goal 6

Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents



Goal 3

Cultivate economic diversification, within the petro-chemical industry and beyond, through a business-friendly environment



Goal 7

Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication



Goal 4

Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources



Goal 8

Foster an environment for safe communities



Goal 9

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

CORPORATE MISSION

We are committed to working collaboratively, efficiently and effectively to provide quality service delivery to citizens, business, and industry alike.

CORPORATE VALUES

Our values help to form our organizational identity and define our culture.

Integrity	We demonstrate ethical standards and behaviours We display honest behaviour at all times We do what we say we will do
Respect	We treat others with care and dignity We pay attention to each other We welcome a variety and diversity of ideas
Safety	We consistently demonstrate safe work practices We build an environment of openness and trust We make it safe for each other to voice opinions or concerns
Fairness	We consider how our actions might affect others We treat everyone impartially and equitably We are willing to share the reasoning behind our thinking and decisions
Cooperation	We support, assist and learn from each other We give credit to others for their contributions We compromise when needed to achieve common goals


DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

To support organizational priorities through sound research and analysis; effective collaboration with intermunicipal, internal/external stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples; and dynamic advocacy to other orders of government.

BRANCH 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. IA also coordinates and facilitates information processes and products that will help Council and the organization make informed decisions for the long-term prosperity of Strathcona County.

IA works with a broad spectrum of legislative stakeholders, including Council, senior leadership, administration, regional municipalities, and the provincial and federal governments.



On behalf of Strathcona County, the branch advocates for the County's goals and works with rural and urban municipalities through sub-regional, regional, provincial, and national organizations. Further, building strong relationships with both the provincial and federal governments and surrounding municipalities is essential to our community's long-term success. IA ensures the County takes the opportunity to make its perspective known to all orders of government prior to the development or implementation of new policies that affect municipal operations.

The Intergovernmental Affairs Branch also supports the County's commitment to strengthen relationships with Indigenous Peoples in the region. This includes external Indigenous engagement and capacity building within the organization.

The branch delivers programs and provides a service to the organization that primarily help to achieve Goal 5 of the strategic plan - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships.

DEPARTMENT CORE BUSINESS FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS (SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL PLANS)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

IA fosters relationships and partnerships with other orders of government, neighbouring municipalities, and civic organizations to further key priorities.

IA also communicates and coordinates with respective departments to support Council's and administration's participation in intermunicipal associations, boards and committees including, but not limited to the:

- Alberta Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta
- Intermunicipal Affairs Committee (IAC) with Sturgeon County
- Intermunicipal Relations Committee (IMRC) with Fort Saskatchewan, including its Senior Administration and Technical Committees
- Intermunicipal Relations Committee (IRC) with Bruderheim and the potential ACP-funded study on enhanced collaboration
- Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and its supporting committees and task forces including:
 - 5-Year Growth Plan Update
 - Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan
 - Environment, Social, and Governance
 - Governance and Human Resources
 - Audit and Finance

IA coordinates input from Strathcona County departments into proposed legislative or regulatory changes or initiatives by the governments of Alberta and Canada, and works with Council to ensure their advocacy plan aligns with the goals of the Strategic Plan.

2022 – 2025 FORECAST

IA will monitor the 2023 Alberta provincial election, identify advocacy opportunities and advise Council and County Administration on key issues.

Leverage relationships at intermunicipal associations, boards, and committees to increase knowledge of local priorities/positions.

Showcase Strathcona County by hosting the FCM Annual Board Meeting.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY ANALYSIS

IA conducts research, analysis, and provides advice to support policy development, strategic initiatives, and partnerships within the branch and throughout the organization. This includes identifying current or emerging trends, issues, or opportunities that may impact policy or resource allocation and community understanding.

The department coordinates projects and initiatives when policy implications span multiple departments and assisting other projects with interdepartmental analysis. Such information is used to influence the direction and implementation of policies and programs in Strathcona County. Core functions include:

2022 – 2025 FORECAST


Provide support and analysis to interdepartmental projects, including those focused on the commitments to affordable housing approaches, Indigenous engagement and procurement, intermunicipal friendship agreements, municipal data analysis, and the long-term impacts from the pandemic.

Monitor and analyze positions and resolutions of related boards, committees, organizations, and the overall regional political landscape to prepare briefings as required.

Monitor and provide reports on issues, legislation, and research which could affect the County.

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

The Intergovernmental Affairs branch leads and coordinates Indigenous Relations and reconciliation-based projects across the organization. This includes facilitating relationship building between the County and Indigenous Peoples, implementing and tracking the County's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission



(TRC) of Canada's Calls to Action, and building capacity across the organization. We recognize that by acknowledging and uplifting Indigenous voices in policy and decision-making, we as an organization can lead by example.

2022 – 2025 FORECAST

Facilitate relationship building between representatives of the County, particularly senior and elected officials, and Indigenous Peoples in the region. This includes nearby First Nations, Metis Settlements, the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta, and Indigenous residents among others.

Oversee and monitor the County's cross-departmental progress in fulfilling the TRC Calls to Action as outlined in the proposed TRC Action Plan. IA will lead the development of an annual report to Council on Action Plan progress.

Review the County's Territorial Acknowledgement policy and lead the annual policy renewal work, including engaging with Indigenous partners to review the policy, tracking proposed revisions, and preparing reports for the Governance Advisory Committee and Council.

Build capacity and develop resources to support all employees in their Indigenous Relations work, including the facilitation of an internal Indigenous Relations Working Group, the development of Territorial Acknowledgment guidelines, protocols for engaging elders and performers, and identifying training opportunities for all staff.

Advise on the County's approach to affirm the principles as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

DEPARTMENT SUPPORT ROLES (IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES)

The list below includes initiatives that this department will be supporting during the 2022 – 2025 Business Plan timeline. Lead departments are responsible for providing clear plans to support departments. These plans are to advise support departments on particulars of the support required and timing.

- Business Expense Policy Review and Update
Lead: Financial and Strategic Services
- Strathcona County Business Transformation (SCBT) Project
Lead: Financial and Strategic Services
- Service Definition Project
Lead: Financial and Strategic Services
- Occupational Health and Safety/ Disability Management Technology Project
Lead: Human Resources
- Succession Planning Strategy
Lead: Human Resources
- New Occupational Health and Safety Legislation Implementation
Lead: Human Resources
- Corporate Inclusion and Diversity Training
Lead: Human Resources and Family and Community Services
- Digital Workplace Program
Lead: Information Technology Services
- Electronic Procurement System Update
Lead: Financial and Strategic Services