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Understanding Municipal Decision-makers and Influencers

March 2014





Agency for Health <u>Protection and Promotion</u> Agence de protection et de promotion de la santé



Introductions

Presenters:

Kim Bergeron, PhD

kim.bergeron@oahpp.ca

Health Promotion Field Support Specialist: By-law and Policy Development, PHO

Nicole Niedra, MPA

Nicole.Niedra@niagararegion.ca

Policy Analyst, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Public Health, Niagara Region

Assisted by: Jacquie Evans, MPH Health Promotion Coordinator, PHO









Webinar Features

- Adobe Connect technology
- Use landline for audio
- Chat function to ask questions or if you need help
- Lecture mode





Learning Objectives

At the end of this session you will be able to:

- Identify and understand decision-makers and influencers in relation to by-law development
- Reflect on how the information provided can be applied to your own area of work





What are By-laws?¹

- "An order or resolution"
- Follow a specific political process
- Are enforceable

Resolutions are an expression of a decision or wish of council





By-laws²

- Passed by elected municipal councils
- Influenced by public opinion, community groups, citizens
- Must complement federal/provincial legislation
- Effective, long-term, enforceable





Why Take a By-law Approach?

- Awareness and educational programs may be short-lived
- Policies are more **sustainable**
- Because they are harder to change, policies can often withstand changes in decision-makers³





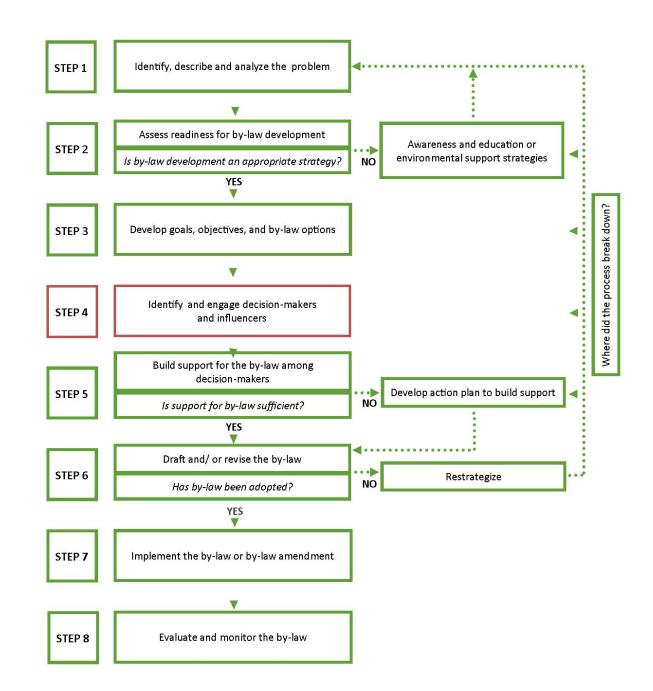
- To change the built
 environment to facilitate
 healthy behaviours and create
 conditions for health⁴
- To address policies and actions outside the health sector that can affect the health of the population⁵
- To address health inequities and social determinants of health⁶

Why Take a By-law Approach?



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Roadmap for By-law Development⁷



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Step 4: Identify and Understand Decision-makers and Influencers

There are two types of municipal decision-makers:

- 1. Elected officials
- 2. Civil servants

Influencers are community members who can influence your municipal decision-makers.





Legislation that Governs Municipal Decision-makers⁸

- Municipal Act
- Planning Act
- Building Code Act
- Social Housing Reform Act
- Police Services Act

- Fire Protection and Prevention Act
- Emergency and Civil Protection Act
- Ontario Works Act
- Day Nurseries Act



Municipal Structure

Term	Definition
Municipality	A geographic area whose inhabitants are incorporated
Local municipality	A single-tier municipality or a lower-tier municipality
Lower-tier municipality	A municipality that forms part of a upper-tier for municipal purposes
Single-tier municipality	A municipality, other than an upper-tier municipality, that does not form part or an upper-tier municipality for municipal purposes
Upper-tier municipality	A municipality of which two or more lower-tier municipalities form part for municipal purposes
County	An upper-tier municipality that was a county on the day the Municipal Act, 2001 came into force
Regional municipality	An upper-tier municipality that was a regional or district municipality or the County of Oxford on December 31, 2002



Questions to Consider

Which municipal decision-makers should be the focus of your support-building efforts?

What do you know about the 'person'? The position?

What are their current efforts on the by-law topic?

What kinds of decisions do they have the power to make?



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Review of Council Meeting Minutes

Nicole Niedra

Policy Analyst, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Public Health, Niagara Region





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Policy Analyst Role

- Support policy initiatives within Niagara Region Public Health
- Identify opportunities to collaborate to advance public health goals
- Develop tools to help better align our work with local area municipalities
- Tools include:
 - Strategic plan matrix
 - Policy and media tracking
 - Review of council meeting minutes



Strategic Plan Matrix

To develop a better understanding of local municipal priorities and to identify potential opportunities for alignment and collaboration

			C	orporate an	d Municipal S	Strategic Pla	ns: Common	Themes				
Theme	A	в	Municipality Click on each municipality to follow the link to Strategic Plans. Click on X to link to specific sections of the plan related to the theme. Given to are not provided. Blank cells indicate that the Strategic Plan did not make reference to th									
							Blank cells indici	ate that the Strate	gic Plan did not mak	e reference to th		
			С	D	E	F	G	н	I	J		
Healthy Communities												
Improved health care/services access & delivery	Х	x	x	x			Х	x				
Promote active living	Х	х	х		X	Х		х				
Improve & enhance built environment	Х		х		X		х	х		Х		
Decrease financial barriers (affordability)		x	x		X			х				
Engagement & Partnerships												
Public engagement	х	x		Х	X	Х	х	х	x			
Youth engagement/attract and retain youth		X	x			X		x				
Volunteerism		X		Х	X	X						
Funding opportunities (i.e., other levels of gov., fundraising, other partnerships)	x	x	x	×	x	×	x					
Community Planning & Development												
Create/adopt official plan policies					X	x		×	x	х		
Growth	x		x	X	X			x	x			
Integrated transportation	х	×		x	x	x		х	x			
Agriculture					X	X			x			
Governance & Performance Management												
Develop model for best practices/measurable service level standards	x		x	x	x		x	x	x			
Accountability	Х	х		X		X		Х	X	х		
Generate brand		х		X	X			Х	x			
Improve by-law enforcement							Х	X				
Economic Sustainability												
Increase tourism/development of tourism products	Х		x	x		х	х	х	x			



Tracking Policy Progression

This template is used to document the work that is done throughout the policy development process to track progress from one year to the next

					Policy Progression				
Policy Approach	:					Why	are you moving	forward with this	policy work?
Partners:									
Date Updated	Policy Makers	Specify	Reach	Stage	Milestones	Specify	Timeline	Variances	Comments
	Local Government	City of XX	25,000	NeedForPolicyIdentified		*			
			-	Need fo Researc	r policy identified (e.g., as part of a larger s ch is underway (e.g., collecting local data, r	itra ele:			
	I	1	I	1	I	1	I		1



Media Tracking

This template is used to populate information related to the work of public health - monitoring the local context for emerging or ongoing issues

		Media Tracking Re:	Food Systems Work
Date	Title/Topic	Source	Article Summary
29-May-12	Food trucks get licenses for downtown	http://www.wellandtribune.ca/2012/05/29/food-trucks-get-licenses-for- downtown	St. Catharines councilors voted unanimously to grant two new licenses for downtown and to relax the rules about where they can be located. In addition to the two new licenses that will be issued for the core, the city will also study the possibility of issuing roaming licenses, which would allow the mobile food vendors to move around the city. Both the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and the St. Catharines Downtown Association supported the changes, and the new license locations downtown must be chosen in consultation with the downtown association.
08-Jun-12	UN official sparks debate over Canadian food security	http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2012/05/16/pol-un-canada-food- security.html	De Schutter warned Wednesday that inequality is getting worse, with many Canadians having problems getting the healthy food they require. Canada fails to adapt its social assistance benefits and minimum wage to the rising costs of basic necessities, including food and housing, he added. Food banks are not a solution but a symptom of failing social safety nets.
13-Jun-12	\$10M affordable housing building planned for Fitch St.	http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/2012/06/12/10m-affordable-housing- building-planned-for-fitch-st	Niagara Regional Housing hopes to build a 67-unit building on the Niagara Region-owned property at 235 Fitch St. The \$10-million affordable housing building for seniors could soon take root where the Sprouting Roots Community Garden is now growing.
20-Jun-12	Soda pop ad campaigns called misleading	http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/story/2012/06/19/sugar-pop-soda- big.html	Coca-Cola and Pepsi's social responsibility campaigns are misleading and divert attention from the health risks of their products. PloS Medicine, published by the Public Library of Science, launched a series on "Big Food" Tuesday written by public health experts and advocates.



Reviewing Municipal Meeting Minutes

Rationale:

- To develop a better understanding of local decision-makers and their competing interests/priorities
- To be strategic about when and what is brought forward to local area municipalities
- Provides an understanding of the governance structure i.e., who councillors are and the committees they sit on
- Identifies the drivers behind discussion about specific issues



Work Completed to Date

First round of reviews:

 Healthy Living Niagara hired a consultant to develop the template and establish a process

Second round of reviews:

- Found value in the process and initiated review through Niagara Region Public Health
- Review completed by a student
- Refined template based on feedback from original review
- Expanded list of search terms and topics areas



Accessing Minutes

- Public information
- Most minutes were available online via different municipal website
- The majority of minutes are searchable







- Define scope of review
 - Review minutes every other month for a one-year period
 - Council meeting minutes vs. general committee minutes
- Reviewer met with content experts to refine list of search terms
- Search terms were used when scanning minutes for relevant information (ctrl f feature is helpful)





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and the Urban Forestry Master Plan, all of which have bearing on the use, design and development of the valley lands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Planning and Development Services be directed to undertake and coordinate the preparation of an overall Design and Implementation Master Plan to facilitate the development of the public realm connecting the Performing Arts Centre, the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts and the City's Spectator Facility in the lower level valley lands of the Downtown; and

THAT the Master Plan take into account site plan considerations; landscape and public art features; connecting links to St. Paul Street and neighboring valley lands; completion of active transportation connections through the valley; enhanced cycling route connections; and engagement with the owners of the private lands at the rear of St. Paul Street; and

Toms

COMMEN

active transportati 💌



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Key Terms	Type of Report/Date	What was Found	Comments
Active Transportation	General Committee Minutes April 2, 2012	Item No. 279 Motion File: 35.2.2 Re: Preparation of Design and Implementation Master Plan for Lower Level Valley Lands of the Downtown Councilior XX presented the following motion. "WHEREAS a Master Plan for the Downtown valley lands which promotes excellent urban design in a seamless and well-functioning public realm, supports Downtown revitalization and attraction of economic development and private sector investment; and City of St. Catharines, Brock University, and the Federal and Provincial Governments are investing upwards of \$151 million in three separate, but intimately related projects attached to the valley lands; and THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Planning and Development Services be directed to undertake and coordinate the preparation of an overall Design and Implementation Master Plan to facilitate the development of the public realm connecting the Performing Arts Centre, the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts and the City's Spectator Facility in the lower level valley lands of the Downtownaccount site plan considerations; landscape and public at features; connecting links to St. Paul Street and neighboring valley lands; completion of active transportation connections through the valley inhanced cycling route connections; and engagement with the owners of the Private lands at the rear of St. Paul Street; and	
fransit	General Committee Minutes April 16, 2012	Subject: St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre Update That Council direct the Transit Commission to prepare a report examining the feasibility of offering transit to accommodate visitors and residents to the Museum, and That this be accomplished without the addition of new routes, but rather through route reconfigurationCARRIED UNAMIMOUSLY	
	Council Minutes May 7, 2012	MOVED BY COUNCILLOR XX SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR XX That Council receive and refer the presentations by Karrie Porter, Stephen Remus, <u>Sharyl</u> Spring and Jason Hammond to staff; and That Council direct staff to prepare a report on the presentations including a comparison of municipalities who are	



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Understanding Municipal Decision-Makers: A Review of Municipal Council Minutes

Purpose: Review municipal council minutes, committee minutes, council responses to staff reports and deputations

- To determine individual councillor's opinions about selected topics
- To determine overall municipal standing on selected topics
- To identify champions for policy ideas
- To identify possible opposition to policy ideas

Document Legend Councillors. Strategic Plans, Official Plans, Master Plans, etc. Important points (+) Summarized by reviewer and not directly copy/pasted from source document (if applicable)

Process used to gather information:

- Minutes of Committees and Councils were reviewed over a 6 month period (April 2012, June 2012, August 2012, October 2012, December 2012, February 2012), with additional months reviewed if necessary
- The reviewer looked at multiple sets of minutes for each month and gathered information as closely related to the topic areas as possible.
- · If no information was found in during the review, the topic line was left blank.
- · Copies of documents searched can be found in the accompanying "References" folders

Name of Municipality:

Name of Council Members	Position	Committee Involvement

Review of St. Catharines Council Municipal Minutes - August 2013



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

PARTENAIRES POUR LA SANTÉ

Key Terms	Type of Report/Date	What was Found	Comments
Recreational Waterways/Pools	Report/Date General Committee Minutes April 2, 2012	Discussion Re: Public Access to City Beaches MOVED BY COUNCILLOR XX That Staff be directed to prepare a report in one month on preserving and protecting public access to City beaches General Committee Minutes April 23, 2012 Subject: Preserving and Protecting Public Access to City Beaches APPROVED ON CONSENT BY RECORDED VOTE (See General Committee Minutes, April 23, 2012, Item Number 239) SUMMARY Physical access to the waterfront is a major concern among shoreline cities across Ontario and Canada as waterfront properties are increasingly failing under private ownership due to the scenic amenity and development potential. It is important that these waterfront areas are managed in such a way that protects and enhances the natural shorelines, beaches and watercourses so that all citizens are able to enjoy their benefits, both now and into the future. As such, the City should continue to assign a high priority to completing gaps in the waterfront trail, increasing public access to the waterfront and improving public access to the Lake Ontario waterfront, it is important that waterfront issues remain a priority of the City. This has been ensured through a number of the City's guiding documents, policies and practices and will be furthered by the upcoming Waterfront Enhancement Strategy being developed by the Region. BACKGROUND At the City Council meeting of April 2, 2012, Council approved the following motion made by Councilion XX Port Dathousie Ward: That Staff be directed to prepare a report in one month on preserving and protecting public access to City beaches	
		Recreation Master Plan and Parks Policy Plan: waterfront as continued priority Both the Recreation Master Plan (2008) and the Parks Policy Plan (2005) identify the waterfront as an important component of St. <u>Catharines</u> ' recreation and leisure infrastructure and are a favored tourist destination. Waterfront parks are more frequently used by older residents (55 and over), and as such, the use of these parks and waterfront areas will increase as the City's demographics evolve over the coming decades	



PARTENAIRES POUR LA SANTÉ

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Document Legend

Councillors

Strategic Plans, Official Plans, Master Plans, etc.

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Name of Municipality:

Name of Council Members	Position	Committee Involvement



SUMMARY DOCUMENT: Understanding Municipal Decision-Makers: A Review of Municipal Council Minutes

NOTE: Only alternating months were scanned from a period of April 2012 to April 2013, therefore it is possible that certain themes were not captured in the review. Furthermore, the focus of the review items were with respect to active transportation.

DocumentLegend

* Refers to topics that were not necessarily the focus of this review however may have been discussed by the individual municipalities (1) Refers to topics that were mentioned by the municipality

(2) Refers to topics that appeared to be of medium discussion by the municipality

(3) Refers to topics that appeared to be heavily discussed by the municipality

						Mu	inicipality					
	Welland	Fort Erie	Pelham	Lincoln	Port Colborne	Niagara Falls	Niagara on the Lake	Thorold	Grimsby	West Lincoln	St. Catharines	Wainfleet
Healthy Lifestyles												
Healthy Eating												
Farmers Markets		1			1		1		1		2	
Agriculture		1	1		1			1				
 Food banks/Food Drives 								2				
Food Vendors			2		1	1	1	1			1	
 New Facilities 				1								
Physical Activity*												
Sun Safety*												
Active Transportation												
Trails/Parks	1		3	1		3	2	2	3	2	3	1
Waterways	2	1		1							2	2
Cycling	2		3		1		1	3	2		1	
Complete Streets/Downtown Beautification	3	2		2	1	3		2		1	3	
Injury Prevention and Substance Misuse												
Injury												
Roads												
Traffic Calming	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	2	1	2	1	2
Falls			_	-						_		
Age-Friendly	2	3	1	1	1		1	1	1		3	
Accessibility	2	2		1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	
Self-Harm*		-								_	-	
Concussions and Sports*		1						1				
Substance Misuse												
Illicit Drugs*												
 Prescription Drug Misuse* 												
Alcohol (Special Events may not be listed)		1	1		1							
Early Detection of Cancer*			1					1				
Workplace Safety*								1				
Tobacco*	1	1	1	1				1	2	1		1
Youth Engagement*		1	1		1	1		· · ·	-	1		· ·





- The process enhanced knowledge about municipal activities and decisions
- Refine list of search terms each time the review is conducted
- Use a broad list of search terms
- Include information about where the minutes can be accessed so that they can easily be recalled
- Provide a summary of the overall findings from the review and recommendations to improve the process

Strategies

- Consider engaging Board of Health members to build support for your by-law
- Learn more about what municipal decision-makers are talking about by visiting:
 - Association of Municipalities in Ontario <u>www.amo.on.ca</u>
 - Canadian Federation of Municipalities <u>www.fcm.ca</u>
 - Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario <u>http://www.amcto.com</u>

Visit the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing website <u>www.mah.gov.on.ca</u>

Take Home Messages



- Develop a comprehensive understanding of how your municipality operates and is organized
- 2. Know:
 - Which local government to approach (if not a single-tier),
 - Specifically who to approach (the position and the person) and
 - When is the best time to approach (understand the competing priorities)
- Develop a mechanism to gather this information





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Questions? Comments? Thoughts? Ideas?





Tell Us What You Think!

Please complete the evaluation form.

http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/jenny-m/understandingdecision-makers-mar-5-2014

Thank You!

Health Promotion Capacity Building Team: Get in Touch, Stay in Touch

 For service request inquiries, including consultations, tailored webinars, customized face to workshops, or to sign up for our mailing list, please go to:

http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/Heal thPromotionServices/Pages/service-request-form.aspx

• To find out more about scheduled events, please visit our calendar at:

http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/LearningAndDevelopm ent/Events/Pages/default.aspx



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"Policy work is a long road, which requires a sustained effort. It's often about small, incremental changes and successes. But when it all comes together, the positive impact for the population as a whole is well worth the effort."⁸





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