

So You Want to Run for Council

Making an Informed Decision!

***Presentation by
Fred Dean
2022***



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Introducing Fred Dean

- Municipal Coach
- Former Sudbury City Solicitor
- Works exclusively with local governments
- Former Chair
 - ROMA Question Box Panel
 - OGRA The Last Word Panel
- Amberley Gavel Ltd.
 - Closed Meeting Investigations
 - Integrity Commissioner
 - Academy
- Orientation for new Councils & Heads of Councils
- AMO
 - Honour Role in 2007
 - Facilitator – Councillor & Head of Council training

THE AGENDA ...

- **Municipal Government 101**
- **Municipal Powers**
- **Accountability & Transparency**
- **Roles & Responsibilities**
- **Personal Considerations**
- **Code of Conduct**
- **Conflict of Interest**



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The Scope of Local Government

- ✓ What does local government do?
- ✓ Let's test our knowledge!

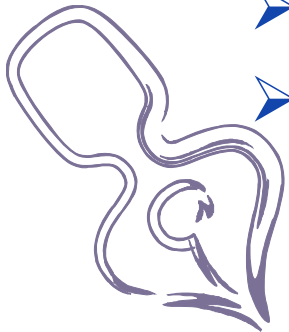


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Municipal Powers

- Powers come from the Province
- No inherent jurisdiction
- Size does not matter
 - Types of Municipalities
- Section 5 Municipal Act
 - Powers shall be exercised by Council
 - Exercised by By-law

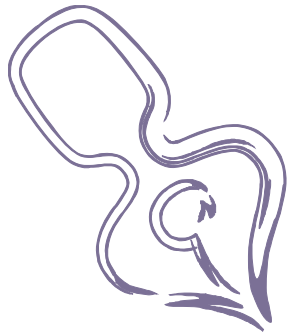


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Basic Principles

- **Complex, Technical & Multi-faceted**
- **Numerous Services – Test your knowledge**
- **Power exercised at duly constituted meeting**
 - ✓ Notice to the public
 - ✓ Open to the public
 - ✓ Quorum
 - ✓ Majority vote
 - ✓ All members vote



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Accountable and Transparent Government

➤ Open meetings

➤ Closed meetings

- Limited ability to hold closed meetings
- Subject to review by an Investigator

➤ Council Policies

- Notice
- Purchasing
- Disposition of land
- Hiring of employees
- Delegation
- Accountable and Transparent
- Harassment
- Council Member/Staff
- Pregnancy & parental leave

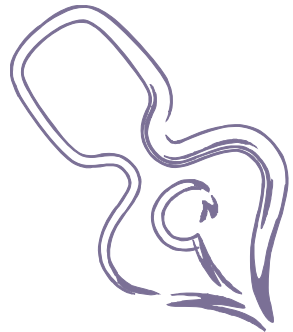


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Roles & Responsibilities

- **Set by Provincial Statute**
 - **Council**
 - **Head of Council**
 - **Staff**



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Council

- Exercises corporate powers
- Represents the public
- Consider the well-being & interests of the municipality
- Acts collectively, publicly & with notice
- No management role for Council or Members of Council
- Limited individual powers



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Head of Council

- **Mayor, Reeve, Warden, Chair...or**
- **Presides over council meetings**
- **Provides leadership to council**
- **Speaks on behalf of municipality**
- **Provides information & recommendations to council**
 - **administrative & controllership policies**
 - **accountability & transparency**



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Head of Council as Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Acts as Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- ✓ Responsibilities detailed in Municipal Act
- ✓ CEO is not the CAO
- ✓ No day-to-day management duties
- ✓ Role as champion/cheerleader



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Municipal Staff

- Undertake research & provide advice to council
- Implement council's decisions
- Establish administrative practices & procedures to carry out council's decisions



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Council should steer the boat rather than row it

- Council should decide what services and programs the municipality will offer and leave to staff the “how to”
- Osborne and Gaebler (*Reinventing Government*)

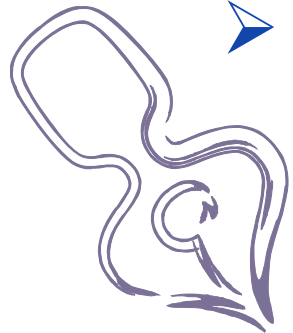


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Municipal Governance

- **How does Council make decisions?**
- **Staff**
- **Committees**
- **The public**
- **Local Boards**
- **Meetings, meetings, meetings...**
- **Procedure By-law**



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Personal Considerations...

- ✓ **How will your life change the day you are elected?**
- ✓ **How will people treat you?**
- **24/7**
- **Requires total commitment**
- **It will consume you**
- **Two Tier**



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Family

- ✓ Talk to your significant other
- ✓ Calls
- ✓ Social media
- ✓ Interacting with public
- ✓ At the grocery store...
- ✓ Prep time... reading
- ✓ Meetings



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Things to Consider...

- **Micromanaging**
- **Incivility**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Personal Responsibilities**



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Council Code of Conduct

- **Members of Council, local boards & committees**
- **Codes & Integrity Commissioners are mandatory**
- **Integrity Commissioners will**
 - **Investigate alleged breaches**
 - **Educate council & the public**
 - **Provide written opinions to members**



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Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

- **Member's personal obligation**
- **Pecuniary Interest**
 - **Direct & Indirect**
- **Declaration**
 - **Verbal and in writing**
 - **May not participate, influence or vote**



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Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

- **Complaint to IC who advises council**
- **IC may apply to Court**
- **An elector may bring application to Court**
- **Impact**
 - **Number of complaints is up**
 - **Costs are borne by the municipality**



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Confidentiality

- ✓ **Obligation to maintain confidentiality**
- ✓ **Written and verbal information**
- ✓ **Code of Conduct is required to deal with confidentiality**
- ✓ **Beware the coffee shop & the internet**
- ✓ **You don't speak for the municipality**



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Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002

- **Response to Walkerton**
- **January 2013**
 - **Personal liability on members of council**
 - **Need for detailed training**
 - **Substantial penalties**
 - **Matter of health and safety**



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Summing Up

- **Understand the role you are elected to fulfill**
- **Municipal Powers rest with Council**
- **Council members are not managers**
- **Understand your personal obligations**
- **Talk to your family**
- **Congratulations!**



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