

Celebrating Municipal Excellence

Nomination Form

Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021

Nominee Contact Information	
Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	Town of Grand Coulee
Contact Name:	Sandra Wakeford
Telephone #:	(306) 352-8694
Mailing Address:	Box 72 Site 200, 102 Railway Ave. Grand Coulee, SK S4P 2Z2
E-mail Address:	cao@grandcoulee.ca
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Youth Member of Council
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	August 11, 2020
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	September 15, 2021
	Ongoing: <input type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	Sandra Wakeford
Organization:	Town of Grand Coulee
Position:	CAO
Mailing Address:	Box 72 Site 200, 102 Railway Ave. Grand Coulee, SK S4P 2Z2
Telephone #:	(306) 352-8694
E-mail Address:	cao@grandcoulee.ca

Please remember when filling out your nomination that winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library, so be sure to include all information that may be helpful to others if it were to be used as a reference or resource.

The Practice

1. What was the issue that inspired the nominated project or practice?
2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

Focusing on the future of our community, while gearing up for municipal elections, Council felt it was imperative that we engage with the youth of our community to foster interest in local government. As many, if not all, council positions are acclaimed during each election, Council wanted to foster an understanding and passion for local government with the next generation. Think of it as succession planning for elected officials. Additionally, Council wanted to provide our youth with a proactive way to help shape the future of their community. The solution was to have a Youth member of Council position created.

The Process

This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information so that a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice can follow your steps.

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
 Municipal Administration
 Other

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?
5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?
6. What resources were involved?
7. How was the project or practice developed?

Council directed Administration in August of 2020, to start the process of creating a Youth member of Council position. To do this, Administration started by researching and drafting a policy regarding application procedures and bursary requirements for the Youth Member of Council for the Town of Grand Coulee. Administration spoke to other communities with Youth members or Youth Councils to learn best practices, lessons learned, and how they overcame any challenges in filling the position. Quickly, it is determined that filling the position would be one of the largest challenges for our community as we do not have a high school within our boundaries. Of all the communities we spoke to, not one of them was without a high school in their communities. This made our project unique. So how would we reach the grade 10 students when our school only goes from K-8? Once the policy was approved, Administration presented amendments to the Council Procedures Bylaw which included a new section regarding Youth Member and continued to focus on solving the issues of filling the position. In addition to sharing the news about the youth member position multiple times to our monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website, Administration engaged with our volunteer based Recreation Board as well as the Principal of the local school and asked them to spread the word to parents of teens, to include the information with the farewell package from grad 8 students, and to help spread the excitement about this opportunity for our youth. Facebook was of primary focus for spreading the word as our Facebook demographics indicate that the parents and grandparents of

teens are looking to our Facebook page for updates. It took nearly a year after policy approval, but we are thrilled to announce that we have our communities first ever youth member of council sitting at the table with our elected officials and already offering ideas and suggestions to Council on what the teenage youth of our community want.

The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?
9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed?
10. Describe any challenges faced.

While the project is currently complete, we only welcomed our first youth member of Council in September 2021. The program will be re-evaluated near the end of the youth member's 1 year term. Both the youth member, Council, and Administration will be asked their thoughts about the first term and if there are any improvements to be made. The true effect on the community, will hopefully show years down the road in the form of more nominations for Councillor or Mayor positions. We also hope to see the trend continue on our Council with a variety of demographics sitting at the table. It is refreshing to see elected officials that represent a variety of age ranges affecting change for the future of our community.

Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?
Remember, all nominations will become part of the Best Practices Library, so be sure to include specific information.

To date, the biggest lesson learned is how to engage the youth of our community when we do not have a high school or any teen focused groups or organizations to lean on. The thing that worked best for us was engaging with our K-8 school and the volunteers in our community. Both have a vast network of parents at their fingertips. Once we got them excited about this new initiative, they spread the word. Administration also took every opportunity available to mention the youth member position to any high school age students who engaged with the Town whether that be as a hockey player looking for volunteer hours or inquiring\working as summer students for the municipality. While we still have an uphill battle in terms of carrying the message across year over year, we are optimistic that the success of the project will continue and we hope to see it carry on for years to come.