



Celebrating Municipal Excellence

2022 Nomination Form

Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 25, 2022

Nominee Contact Information	
Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	Village of Christopher Lake
Contact Name:	Riley Henderson
Contact role in project:	Councillor
Telephone #:	3069618724
Mailing Address:	Box 3 Christopher Lake
E-mail Address:	riley.henderson@gov.sk.ca
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Engaging Youth
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	November 17, 2022
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	Ongoing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	Riley Henderson
Organization:	Village of Christopher Lake, Christopher Lake Public School
Position:	Councillor
Mailing Address:	Box 3 Christopher Lake
Telephone #:	3069618724
E-mail Address:	riley.henderson@gov.sk.ca

Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.

The Practice

1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

Our biggest issue in our area is trying to get people to run for local government and to understand the rules and regulations we have to follow set out from the government. Trying to show that we as a local council can not just arbitrarily do things/spend money/change rules to appease our own "personal agendas." As well as making the community a more inviting place for younger families with kids, not just a "retirement community."

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

The project has opened the door for our local school kids to see what we do, how we do it, and the rules we have to follow, so they learn about local governance. To be able to have open dialogue with their parents, teachers, and classmates about the ways we are actually trying to grow our village and make it an inviting place for people to move to. The students also have a voice at council to inform us what they see as ways the younger generations can help grow our village to make it a better all around community.

The Process

This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.

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?

The project was spear headed by our village council, who brought forward the idea of bringing the local School Leadership Council to Village council meetings to show the practices, procedures, and limitations local governments follow to properly and effectively run a municipalities

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

The other side of developing this project was the principal and teacher leader in charge of Christopher Lake Public Schools Student Leadership Council. They had to get the permissions and legalities of the school kids taking part from the school district and their guardians.

6. What resources were involved?

Resources that were required to make this happen were fairly limited. Once the whole of council agreed to the idea, it was brought forward to the school who immediately was on board with the idea. Once they had there concerns alleviated about confidentiality, they got the required permissions and were on board completely.

7. How was the project or practice developed?

Developing the project took place over a couple months. It was discussed on how we could get youth involved in the community and how we as a council could get better ideas of what the youth would like to see in the community to attract more families to the village. Once council had agreed to the idea of the kids coming, the logistics of it came into affect. Talks about the roles they would have at council meetings was our next topic of discussion. The students would sit at our council table, follow along with the agenda, and would have a chance to speak put on the agenda as well. It was decided that they would bring ideas every month, that they have got from classmates and friends, of ways the youth of the community thinks would benefit the village. Everything from park upgrades, to basketball nets for our new outdoor rink. They would also inform council of things the school had done in the past month and things that they are planning on doing. As well as if they had any questions about decisions that were made, how we came to the decision, or reasons why we had to make decision on topics, they are able to ask to get a better understanding on the act we have to follow. After it was ironed out on the council end on what we would like to see the students do to take part, it was brought to the Principal of the school. He was very excited about the opportunity for the school to take part and open the eyes of the communities youth into local politics and governance. He brought it to the Student Leadership Council teacher leader who also thought it was a great opportunity. When the permissions were received from school and parents, it was decided that 2 elected students would come each month on a rotational basis, and each would come with a prepared speech of ideas local youth would like to see in the village and things they are doing to try and better the village themselves.

The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

As it is still early on in the project the effect is minimal, although when the students found out about the upcoming opportunity, a buzz was noted around the school about ways they can benefit the village. A school led community garbage clean up was organized and took numerous bags of garbage out of the ditches to help beautify the village. The students have come forward with numerous great ideas to help promote healthy outdoor activities. From upgrading park equipment, continuing our community walking trail, to ideas for year round use in our new covered outdoor rink; such as basketball nets, a small skatepark area, and pickleball nets. It has also been informative for the students for them to learn of the procedures local government has to follow and that we as council have to be fiscally responsible and follow tight budgetary constraints.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

As the project is going to be an ongoing project with hopefully no completion date, a formal evaluation hasn't been completed. After our first council meeting with the students involved, a discussion was had once they had went back to school about the outcome of the first meeting. It was all positive statements about the things they had brought up and the ideas they had come to us with.

10. Describe any challenges faced.

Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

So far the one lesson we have learned is that we have to limit the number of students that come to each meeting. Our first meeting we had the entire elected council of the Student Leadership Council and it turned out to be too crowded in the chambers. As we did not want the students to feel as though they were just crammed in the room as an afterthought, it was decided a good number would be 2 students and the SLC could just rotate who comes and they would take back to their meetings what they had learned at the council meeting.



All nominations will be listed on the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards website as a resource for other municipalities. Be sure to include specific information.

Please submit your completed nomination package to:

E-mail: awards@municipalawards.ca (preferred)

Fax: Attn: Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program

Mail: Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Unit 305 – 4741 Parliament Avenue, Regina, SK S4W 0T9

Questions?

Contact Stephanie Bourassa at 306-525-4318.

Thank you for submitting a nomination for the 16th annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.