



Celebrating Municipal Excellence
2025 Nomination Form
Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Nominee Information	
Name of municipality leading project:	Town of Delisle
Additional municipalities included in nomination: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	
Contact Name:	Damon Werrell
Contact role in project:	Chief Administrative Officer
Telephone #:	306-493-2242
E-mail Address:	delisle@sasktel.net
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Delisle - In good hands
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	January 2025
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> Ongoing Ongoing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </div>

Nominator Contact Information (if different than above)	
Name:	
Organization:	
Position:	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone #:	
E-mail Address:	

Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource for 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?

The project was inspired by a growing need to establish a clear, community-driven direction for the Town of Delisle's future. Several key issues prompted action: aging infrastructure requiring urgent attention, financial sustainability concerns stemming from long-standing utility rate policies, and a lack of formal strategic planning to guide development and investment decisions. With approximately 75% of the Town's infrastructure approaching 70 years of age and no financial reserves in place, the Town was compelled to shift its focus toward long-term infrastructure renewal and planning.

Additionally, Council recognized the importance of aligning municipal priorities with resident expectations and values. The absence of a structured plan made it difficult to balance competing interests—such as infrastructure renewal, recreational investment, and residential growth—while ensuring fiscal responsibility. These challenges highlighted the need for a comprehensive strategic plan that would reflect community input, address financial realities, and provide a roadmap for sustainable development over the next five to ten years.

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

Recognizing the need for a clear and community-aligned direction, the Town of Delisle initiated the development of a strategic plan to guide municipal priorities over the next 5 to 10 years.

This process began in January 2025 with a preliminary review to assess the current state of the community and identify potential paths forward.

In February 2025, the Town hosted its first Town Hall meeting to gather public input on key areas of focus. Residents were invited to share their views on whether Council should prioritize replacing aging infrastructure, pursue expansion and new development, or invest in recreational facilities such as a new hockey arena. A second Town Hall was held in July 2025, drawing a larger turnout and further enriching the dialogue. To ensure broader participation, the Town also conducted a two-week online survey to collect additional feedback from residents.

The results of these engagement efforts revealed a strong preference for focusing on the renewal and replacement of existing infrastructure. Secondary priorities included upgrading the arena's ice-making plant and gradually developing new residential lots to support future growth.

While community feedback was being collected, the Town also undertook a comprehensive financial review. This analysis revealed that Delisle's commitment to maintaining the lowest utility rates among comparable communities had led to a significant operational deficit over the past decade. A business case was developed to recommend strategies for increasing revenue while continuing to offer competitive utility rates.

Informed by both public input and financial analysis, the Town has now completed a five-year strategic plan. This plan includes funding to begin addressing aging infrastructure, upgrading the arena's ice plant, and supporting measured residential development to accommodate future growth.

With a strategic plan now in place—shaped by community input and aligned with stakeholder priorities—the Town is well-positioned to advance a sustainable future rooted in shared values.

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 to a similar 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?

Municipal Staff played a key role in conducting a thorough financial review of the Town's operations, comparing revenues and expenditures over the past decade. Staff prepared detailed reports and analysis to support informed, evidence-based decision-making by Council throughout the strategic planning process.

Municipal Council actively led the initiative by forming ad hoc committees to analyze data and contribute to the development of the strategic plan. Council members also served as direct liaisons with the public during Town Hall meetings, engaging residents at individual tables to gather feedback and ensure community voices were reflected in the final plan.

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

Yes, several groups contributed to the development of the strategic planning project. Community residents played a central role by providing input through Town Hall meetings and an online survey, helping shape the priorities and direction of the plan. Their feedback was essential in identifying key areas of focus, such as infrastructure renewal and recreational investment.

Ad hoc committees, formed by members of Council, also played a vital role in analyzing public input and supporting the development of the strategic plan. These committees worked closely with municipal staff to ensure that community perspectives were accurately reflected in the final document.

Together, these groups ensured that the project was collaborative, transparent, and aligned with both community values and fiscal realities.

6. What resources were involved?

The strategic planning initiative involved a range of resources, both human and informational. Municipal staff contributed significant time and expertise by conducting a comprehensive financial review, preparing formal reports, and supporting logistical aspects of public engagement. Council members dedicated their efforts through ad hoc committees and direct participation in Town Hall meetings, facilitating meaningful dialogue with residents.

Community engagement tools were also key resources, including two in-person Town Hall sessions and a two-week online survey platform, which enabled broad and inclusive feedback collection. These tools ensured that resident input was central to the planning process.

Additionally, financial data and operational records were critical resources used to assess the Town's fiscal health, particularly in relation to utility service sustainability. The development of a business case analysis provided strategic recommendations to address long-term financial challenges while maintaining competitive utility rates.

Together, these resources supported the creation of a well-informed, community-driven strategic plan that reflects both public priorities and fiscal realities.

7. How was the project or practice developed?

The strategic planning project was developed through a structured and collaborative multi-pronged process that combined financial analysis, stakeholder engagement, and community consultation. It began in January 2025 with an internal review of the Town's current state and future needs. Municipal staff conducted a comprehensive assessment of financial operations, identifying long-term sustainability challenges—particularly related to utility services—and prepared formal reports to inform Council's decision-making.

To ensure the plan reflected community priorities, the Town launched a multi-phase public engagement strategy. This included two Town Hall meetings—in February and July 2025—where Council members directly interacted with residents to gather feedback on key issues such as infrastructure renewal, community expansion, and recreational investment. An online survey was also conducted to broaden participation and capture a wider range of perspectives.

Council formed ad hoc committees to analyze the input received and assist in drafting the strategic plan. These committees worked closely with staff to integrate financial realities with community aspirations. A business case analysis was also developed to support revenue adjustments while maintaining competitive utility rates.

The Results

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

The final strategic plan was shaped through a combined effort—grounded in data, guided by public input, and aligned with stakeholder priorities—resulting in a clear roadmap for the Town’s development over the next five years.

As a result of the strategic planning efforts, the Town anticipates building substantial financial reserves over the coming years. This will enable the municipality to begin planning for major infrastructure upgrades, with the first street and associated infrastructure replacement top-to-bottom projected for 2029–2030.

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

To ensure transparency, the business case analysis, Town Hall results, and the finalized five-year strategic plan were all made publicly accessible online.

10. Describe any challenges faced.

Several challenges were encountered throughout the development of the strategic planning project. One of the most significant was low public participation during the initial Town Hall meetings. Despite efforts to promote the events, turnout was limited, making it difficult to gather a broad range of perspectives through in-person engagement alone.

To address this, the Town introduced an online survey to provide a more accessible and flexible option for residents to contribute. This approach proved more effective, ultimately engaging nearly 10% of the population. The experience highlighted the importance of offering diverse engagement methods to accommodate varying preferences and schedules.

Another challenge was the lack of financial reserves to support infrastructure renewal, despite the fact that approximately 75% of the Town's infrastructure was nearing 70 years of age. This required a shift in focus toward long-term planning and a comprehensive review of utility rates and revenue streams to ensure financial sustainability.

Balancing community expectations with fiscal realities also posed a challenge. While residents expressed interest in recreational investments and gradual residential development, the Town had to prioritize infrastructure replacement due to its critical condition and budget constraints. These challenges underscored the need for proactive communication, flexible engagement strategies, and data-driven decision-making throughout the planning process.

Lessons Learned

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

One key lesson learned was the importance of offering multiple avenues for public engagement. While the Town Hall meetings provided valuable face-to-face interaction, attendance was limited, highlighting the need for more accessible and flexible options. The online survey proved to be a more effective tool, engaging nearly 10% of the population and demonstrating that digital platforms can significantly enhance participation.

Another important takeaway was the value of clear communication and transparency throughout the process. Making the business case, Town Hall results, and the final strategic plan publicly available helped build trust and reinforced the Town's commitment to accountability.

If the process were to be repeated, it would be recommended to place greater emphasis on digital engagement from the outset, including targeted outreach through social media, email newsletters, and community networks to boost awareness and participation. Additionally, hosting smaller, focused stakeholder sessions alongside broader public forums could help gather more detailed input from specific groups, such as youth, seniors, or business owners.

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
19th annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.***