WHAT ARE YOU GETTING INTO?

Running for Council in Your Rural Municipality

Rural Municipal Council: Joining a Whole Network

So, you are thinking of running for council? That's great! Your municipality needs people just like you!

If you are elected to a council of a rural municipality, you get to join a whole network of people like yourself—devoted to making rural Saskatchewan a great place to live, work, and do business.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) is the municipal association created by and devoted to rural municipalities in the province. SARM offers a whole array of programs and services to support RM councils. We at SARM hope that this document will help you in your decision to run.

Feeling hesitant to run? Check out this video on running for council:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TA7PZQEmDaQ

Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reasons

You don't need to know everything about municipal government before you run for council. Your success in local government will depend a lot on your intentions going into it and your willingness to learn. When the intentions of elected officials don't align with what a municipality is and does, big problems can occur!

Not So Good Reasons to Serve on Council	Good Reasons to Serve on Council
To make decisions that advance your personal agenda	To make decisions that benefit the community as a whole
To have control over what happens in your municipality	To share your unique knowledge and experience to contribute to council discussions and decisions
To finally address that one thing that concerns you	To help ensure the long-term success of your community
To force your neighbors to do things you want them to do	To help your municipality set fair bylaws and policies that apply to everyone equally
Because you are mad at the current council	To work with others to accomplish common goals

The Learning Curve

Serving in public office is a job unlike any other. This makes it quite exciting, but it also requires the elected to gain a new perspective and follow regulations (e.g., legislation, bylaws, and policies, etc.) that are unique to local governments. You'll have to shift your thinking to work with the framework of a municipality, rather than a business or a household.

The Saskatchewan Government Ministry of Government Relations has provided some excellent resources to help potential candidates understand what will be expected of them.

Check out their website on "Municipal Elections" to learn about the election process and the steps to run for council:

https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/elections

As well, their "Information for New Municipal Council Members" provides summaries of Council's role and power, as well as responsibilities once elected, among other things.

https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/tools-guides-and-resources/information-for-council-members#responsibilities-once-elected

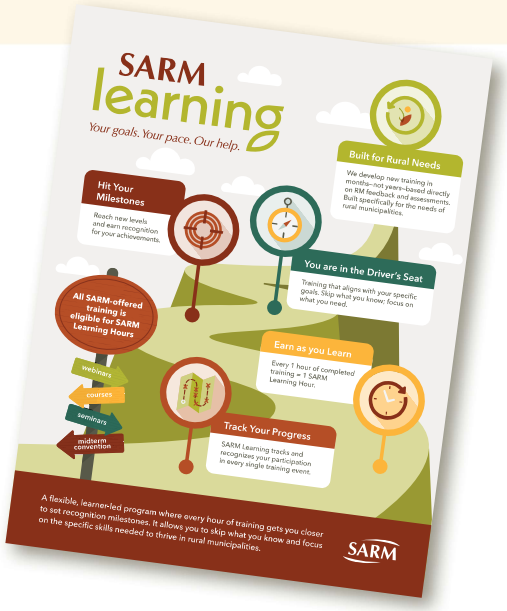
If SARM could draw your attention to just one critical piece of information, it would be the "Public Disclosure Statement" requirement. This must be completed at various times throughout your term. The rules around transparency and "conflict of interest" often catch newly elected councillors off guard! (PS., some municipalities require that you get a criminal record check, so check with your local administrator to see if that applies to you, too.)

SARM: Your First Call

If you are elected, SARM will be there to help by providing services, programs, and training to build the capacity of your municipality to seize the opportunities ahead. We want to be your "First Call."

Check out our web page to learn all about SARM's work in:

- **Advocacy:** https://sarm.ca/advocacy/
- **Services:** https://sarm.ca/services/
- **Programs:** https://sarm.ca/programs/



After you are elected, check out "SARM Learning" for opportunities to gain practical skills to help you in your new role! (https://learninghub.sarm.ca/). We offer resources and even whole days of training in your area that are designed to help you succeed in your new role! Good luck!

SARM learning
Your goals. Your pace. Our help.