

Frequently-asked questions – Implementation process for local governance reform

What are the next steps in the implementation process?

Local government transition facilitators are now contacting local representatives to establish the advisory committees to begin work on the following priority issues:

- Identify and finalize any adjustments to the outer boundaries of the new entities, by February 4, 2022.
- Determine whether the new entities will be comprised of wards, at-large councillors, or a hybrid model (combination of at-large and wards), by February 11, 2022;
- Determine the number of wards in each new entity, if applicable, by February 11, 2022.

What will be the composition of the advisory committees, and who will choose those members – the facilitator or Local Government and Local Governance Reform?

- It will be a collaborative approach with the appropriate flexibility built in as needed depending on the situation.
- Two advisory committees will be struck and comprised of the mayor and one other nominee (e.g. deputy mayor or councilor) and the second committee of officials will be comprised of the CAO plus one additional nominee. Note: The second representative on the officials committee may be interchangeable depending on the topic being discussed.
- If the full LSD is in scope for the restructuring, the Chair of the LSD Advisory Committee plus one additional representative would be part of the committee. The facilitator and ELG can consider exceptions if the LSD Advisory Committee have a different approach.
- If a portion of an LSD is in scope as part of a restructuring, we will work with the existing LSD Advisory Committee to determine resident participation from the portion, if the chair does not reside in that portion.

What is the mandate of the transition facilitators for the regional service commissions (RSCs)?

The transition facilitators for the RSCs will focus on adding new mandated services, identifying potential partners to deliver on the mandate, and working on start-up activities linked to those new services. They will create advisory committees comprised

of the RSC executive director, RSC executive committee, and the RSC director of finances.

What will happen with people who are currently municipal employees – will there be any job losses?

While the work function may change for some employees, the transition facilitator and team will take every reasonable step to ensure existing staff have a role within the new organization. In the exceptional circumstances where that is not possible, the next principle would be to try and address through attrition. Job loss would be a last resort.

What will happen to municipalities that do not have the same collective agreements and pension funds for their employees?

The Local Government and Local Governance Reform team has retained HR and legal resources to work through these types of matters, as required. The facilitator will be in a position to access those resources when the process reaches a point of focusing on the future HR structure.

What is the role of current councils between now and January 1, 2023?

During the transition period for restructuring project implementation, local government councils will continue to have the authority provided in the *Local Governance Act*. The day to day operations of local governments will continue to be the responsibility of municipal administrators and decision-making continues to lie with the local councils.

Local governments that are part of a newly restructured entity are asked to be mindful of the decisions made throughout the transition period, recognizing that they will be part of a larger community on January 1, 2023.

As elections will be required for many newly restructured local governments, during the period commencing on the day of general election (November 28, 2022) and ending on the day of the first meeting of the incoming council, the outgoing council shall continue to exercise its powers in relation to the day-to-day activities of the local government, however, restrictions on powers of an outgoing council stated in Section 56 of the *Local Governance Act* will apply as of the day of the general election for the local governments impacted by those elections.

For LSDs that are restructuring with local governments, will they be subject to the local government bylaws?

Local service districts that are being restructured along with existing local governments will not take on existing local government bylaws. Rather, those bylaws will need to be revised over time to the new entity. This will be decided upon by the newly elected councils. Certain by-laws may also apply to a portion of the new entity and not the entity as a whole.

How will debts/reserves in current local governments be managed?

Each former community will retain its own prior debts and/or reserves, and this will be addressed in Regulation.