



*Celebrating Municipal Excellence*  
**2023 Nomination Form**  
**Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Nominee Contact Information	
<b>Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated:</b> <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	City of Weyburn
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Paige Tenbult
<b>Contact role in project:</b>	Program administrator, City of Weyburn Communications Coordinator
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<b>Name of Nominated Practice or Project:</b>	Weyburn Youth Council
<b>Date of Project or Practice Initiation:</b>	January 8, 2018
<b>Date of Project or Practice Completion:</b> <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	<b>Ongoing:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
<b>Name:</b>	Donette Richter
<b>Organization:</b>	City of Weyburn
<b>Position:</b>	City Clerk
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***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?

The primary issue that inspired this project was the desire to ensure that voices and perspectives of the community's youth were represented and considered in local decision-making processes.

The City of Weyburn initiated a non-voting Youth Representative position in January 2018 in response to the identified gap in actively engaging and empowering its younger residents.

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

City Council and staff recognized the importance of fostering civic engagement among the community's youth, promoting leadership skills and providing them with a platform to contribute to the city's growth and development.

The Weyburn Youth Council program expanded in Fall 2018 to have five youth representatives, giving them a direct avenue to share their ideas, concerns and suggestions with local officials.

The Youth Council acts in an advisory position to Weyburn City Council. The primary role of Youth Council is to provide feedback to City Council on issues they identify. Youth Council does not have a vote on issues at City Council, but Council puts great consideration into their recommendations.

Several key functions of the program include:

- Youth involvement
- Advocacy and awareness
- Policy influence
- Community engagement
- Leadership development
- Long-term community impact

## 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

*Weyburn Comprehensive School  
students*

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

### CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT:

- City Council will take the recommendations of Youth Council seriously and will put great value on the opinions of young people who volunteer to lead their peers and our community.
- City Council will assign a City Councillor as a representative to work closely with the Youth Council to assist them in accessing information, following protocols, and providing leadership when asked.
- City Council shall ensure that the Youth Council has a strong relationship with City administration to ensure they have the resources that they require, and that protocols and regulations are adhered to.
- The Mayor of Weyburn (or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Mayor) shall ensure that the Youth Mayor (or Deputy Mayor) is an active participant in regular Council meetings.
- City Council will ensure that Youth Council has information in a timely fashion if it is requesting a recommendation from Youth Council.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:** The City of Weyburn will provide mentoring and guidance through designated representatives from City Council and the City Manager's Office, as well as the City of Weyburn's Communications Coordinator.

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

Although there is not a formal partnership with the Weyburn Comprehensive School, Youth Council administrators continue to build relationships with teachers to help encourage involvement in the program, as well as host events to drive recruitment and retention of Youth Councillors. It is mandatory that Youth Councillors are students in grades 10-12 at the local high school.

6. What resources were involved?

The Weyburn Youth Council program involves several municipal resources to support its activities and ensure success, including:

- Meeting space (Council Chambers is their dedicated space to convene and hold meetings)
- City staff (city administrators play a key role in supporting and advising the program)
- Financial support (municipal budget allocation)
- Communication channels (website, social media platforms and other information sharing activities)
- Access to local officials and decision-makers (to communicate their ideas and concerns directly to those with decision making powers)
- Public facilities and services (recreation facilities and public spaces for events, relationship building with local safety services such as Police and Fire departments)
- Governance support (policy and regulations to support municipal procedures)
- Collaboration opportunities (expertise and an integrated approach to addressing community issues)

7. How was the project or practice developed?

In January 2018, the City of Weyburn Council Procedure Bylaw was amended to include:  
**YOUTH MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

36. (1) Council, at its sole discretion may appoint or remove a Youth Member to City Council from time to time under Section 56.1 of The Cities Act.

This was at the recommendation of the Mayor and City Manager at that time.

In November 2018, the bylaw was amended:

Section 36 — Pluralize Youth Members to allow more than one appointed to Youth Council as per the Youth Council Terms of Reference, where it allows up to 5 members on Youth Council.

According to the City of Weyburn Youth Council Terms of Reference:

The purpose of the City of Weyburn Youth Council exists to encourage youth participation in the community, engage leaders and volunteers of the future, and provide a mechanism for youth to communicate with Council and staff of the City of Weyburn.

Program development throughout the years has been the responsibility of the Communications Coordinator and City Clerk. A City Councillor is assigned as a representative to work closely with the Youth Council.

## The Results

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

The implementation of the program has had a range of positive community effects which contribute to a more inclusive, engaged and vibrant community. Notable impacts include:

- Youth empowerment
- Enhance civic participation
- Better representation
- Community awareness
- Youth-led initiatives
- Leadership development

Reoccurring initiatives include engaging with local organizations to foster a sense of community cohesion and pride, as well as provincial and federal organizations and leaders to increase our youth members' understanding of a municipality's governance responsibilities. Some notable figures include Member of Parliament for Souris-Moose Mountain Hon. Robert Kitchen, Member of Legislative Assembly for Weyburn-Big

Muddy Hon. Dustin Duncan, the Saskatchewan Youth Council and the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth.

The Youth Council has made many contributions to growth and development in our community:

1. In 2018, they played a pivotal role offering insights and recommendations to City Council during the proposal of speed limit changes in school zones.
2. They provided valuable input to Council in 2018 as communities around the country grappled with the impending cannabis legislation.
3. Their commitment to advocating for youth mental health has been a cornerstone of the program since 2019.
4. Youth Councillors initiated a community-wide garbage cleanup, catalyzing the establishment of the City's "Wey-Clean Week" initiative.
5. Following the closure of the local movie theatre in 2017, the Youth Council prioritized advocacy for increased opportunities to keep youth active and engaged in the community. This advocacy played a pivotal role in the establishment of a community-run movie theatre, with construction set to start in Spring 2024.

The influence of the Weyburn Youth Council program extends beyond the local community and resonates at a provincial level. Several municipalities have reached out to program administrators seeking to model their youth council initiatives after the successful structure established in Weyburn.

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

An evaluation is completed after every term, which typically runs from October to June of the following year. Although these evaluations are not formal in nature, they do result in updated terms of reference and opportunities to expand the program's influence each year.

## 10. Describe any challenges faced.

Minor challenges that the program has come across include:

Engagement and participation - Encouraging and maintaining active participation from young members can be a challenge, as youth have diverse interests and commitments.

Recruitment and retention - Attracting new members and retaining them over time can be difficult, as members' availability and interests can change.

Communication - Effective communication with youth, parents, and the community can be challenging, especially when using various platforms and channels.

Youth motivation - Keeping youth engaged and motivated to work on council initiatives can be a struggle, particularly if they do not see the immediate results of their efforts. Striking the right balance between allowing youth to take the lead and providing guidance and structure can be challenging.

## Lessons Learned

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

After every yearly evaluation, program administrators and the City Councillor representative make changes to the program or terms of reference that enhance the program's community impact. However, larger lessons learned include:

Youth empowerment - When young people are given a platform and responsibility, they can become effective leaders in their community.

Community impact - Youth councillors can create positive change in the community. This program promotes the idea that young people are stakeholders in their community, are valued for their diverse perspectives and can yield effective results for the overall benefit of their community.