IMLA in Canada

COVID-19 PANEL

NICK ROBICHAUD, CITY SOLICITOR

CITY OF MONCTON

Emergency Management Framework

As of June 1, 2021: 2212 total cases; 43 deaths; 146 active cases

Provincial State of Emergency declared March 19, 2020

Municipalities did not declare local states of emergency

City of Moncton employees began remote work March 18, 2020

Held first fully-virtual City Council meeting March 16, 2020. No Council meetings missed as a result of pandemic

City operationalized its emergency operationscentre (EOC) immediately; daily briefings with senior leadership team, regular council updates

Senior leadership developed guidelines for policy vs operational decisions, with buy-in from Council

Inter-agency collaboration

Regular conference calls between Public Health, Premier's Office, and municipalities

Public health orders enforced by RCMP (regional policing contract)

Agreements with local health authorities to provide City facilities for COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites

Use of City facilities for displaced sports groups due to schools not being made available

Delivering essential municipal services

Decision not to further restrict activities beyond Province's emergency order

Constantly evolving (parks and trails, public transit)

Developed a contractor COVID-19 protocol for capital projects

KEY – continuous communication with Council and the public

Biggest Challenges

Downtown economic recovery:

- Getting employers to return to their offices once it was safe to do so
- Homelessness/social issues: lack of business activity downtown

Municipal election:

- Delayed from May 2020 to May 2021
- Outbreak in Zone 7 during campaigning and election day required delay in releasing voting results across the province for unknown period of time
- Result: Election day May 10; results released May 25; recount period ends June 4; outgoing councils still in place, with limited authority, from May 10 until sworn-in on June 7