IMLA in Canada

COVID-19 PANEL

BYRON WERRY, CITY SOLICITOR

CITY OF REGINA

Emergency Management Framework

Saskatchewan total cases 11,690, 540 deaths, 1272 active cases

Regina total cases 11,690, 153 deaths, 204 active cases

Provincial State of Emergency declared March 2020

Regina passed a local state of emergency order was later rescind by the Provincial Government by an Order-in-Council

City of Regina employees began remote work March 2020

Several committee and council meeting cancelled prior to establishing remote Council meetings.

City operationalized its emergency operations centre (EOC) immediately; frequent briefings with senior leadership team and regular council updates

City Manager given additional delegated authority to make timely decisions in response to the emergency

Inter-agency collaboration

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

Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) led response to the pandemic, no local health authorities or municipal responsibility for public health.

Public health orders enforced by Regina Police Service

Agreements with SHA to provide City facilities for COVID-19 testing, vaccination sites and temporary field hospital (not activated as yet)

Delivering essential municipal services

Selective restrictions for municipal services beyond Province's emergency order

Transit services significantly impacted

Majority of capital projects delivered effectively existing contracts pre-COVID, specific pricing and terms and conditions post COVID

Bylaw and parking enforcement significantly scaled back and additional challenges presented by lengthy municipal court closures.

Biggest Challenges

Downtown economic recovery will be a challenge, already struggling pre-COV

Municipal election:

- Proceeded in November 2020
- *Local Government Elections Act* enables mail- in voting significant uptake, accommodations made to allow safe in-person voting, similar voter turnout, less than 20 percent

Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL), municipal controlled corporation that manages CFL football stadium, trade and convention centre and selected city recreation facilities, financially distressed, significant risk if CFL does not recover. $160 million stadium loan outstanding against the City's debt limit.