

# Planning Information Session



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
FEBRUARY 7 2014**

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# Outline



- What is planning and why is it important?
- What are the key trends of the next 20 years and what are their implications for planning?
- What are the key features of a good small government planning program?

# What is planning?



- “Avoiding bad outcomes”
  - “avoiding” – seeing and responding
  - “bad” – detrimental to the community and/or its residents (may change over time)
  - “outcomes” – dumb things that your successors will blame on you

OR

- “Achieving long-term community goals by deliberate action”

# Conservation of Five Key Resources



- Land
- Water
- Air
- Energy
- Capital – financial and community

# What is planning not?



- Not zoning, although zoning is a tool for implementing plans
- Layers in the planning framework
  - Regional growth strategy
  - Official community plan
    - ✦ Zoning bylaw
    - ✦ Development controls
    - ✦ Servicing regulations
    - ✦ Building bylaws

# Why is planning important?



- “If you don’t know where you are going, you’ll end up someplace else” Yogi Berra
- Big changes come from small steps
- Communities with well thought out, widely supported plans can be more successful in getting support from federal and provincial governments and the private sector

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# Key trends



- Aging population
- Climate change
- Economy
- Internet
- Vehicle technology



# Aging population



- More older people living longer
- Fewer young people
- Implications for planning
  - Need for appropriate housing for seniors
  - Fewer people in the work force supporting more people out of it – fewer public resources for spending on non-health/aging services
- Planning responses
  - Plan communities that are friendly to all ages
  - Provide transportation choices (where possible)
  - Repurpose public buildings such as schools

# Climate Change



- More extreme weather events (storms, floods, fires)
- Sea level rise and unpredictability in water resources
- Implications for planning
  - Unreliability of traditional threat assessment methods
  - Increased vulnerability of public and private infrastructure
- Planning responses
  - Build a higher level of resilience in communities
  - Integrate emergency response needs into community plans

# Economy



- Global economic interdependence
- Unpredictability – who knows what's next?
- Implications for planning
  - Changing economics for various local land uses – obsolescence cycles increasing
  - Vulnerability of single-industry communities – what else is new?
- Planning responses
  - Ensure land use regulations are consistent with economic trends
  - Identify new opportunities presented by economic change

# Internet



- Revolution in access to human knowledge
- Transformation of human communications (social media)
- No end in sight to the innovations it spawns
- Implications for planning
  - Many activities can take place “anywhere” – defies the concept of zoning
  - New (non-spatial) ways of creating community
- Planning response
  - Redefine “community” in a more fluid way
  - Facilitate/accelerate broadband availability
  - Exploit opportunities for online public engagement (eg. PlaceSpeak)

# Vehicle technology



- “Smart” or autonomous vehicles
- Smaller vehicles with alternative energy sources
- Implications for planning
  - Greater efficiency in the use of road space
  - Enhanced safety
  - Change in attitudes towards use vs. ownership of cars
- Planning response
  - Completely revise transportation modelling and forecasting
  - Revise parking standards
  - Provide for alternative fuels in new construction

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# What are the key features of a good small government planning program?



1. Anticipatory
2. Responsive
3. Efficient
4. Entrepreneurial
5. Effective
6. Responsible

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