



1

Re-inventing Civic Government

BOLD Winnipeg is ... civic government re-invented

City Hall is more than the center of decision-making for civic issues in Winnipeg; it is where citizens and our elected representatives engage one another in crafting and honing a collective vision for our community. The current model of civic government, like any model, must adapt and, when required, transform itself to embrace new realities, moving opportunities and the changing needs of our community. At the center of this transformation is a living, tangible commitment to openness and transparency.

Think BOLD

Government is a reflection of the society it serves; as our community evolves, so too should our government. All governments have a responsibility to protect the public trust through openness and inclusion. What would it take for Winnipeg citizens to be fully engaged, knowledgeable, and trusting of civic government?

BOLD Winnipeg aims to:

- Redefine the relationship between municipal government and citizens, in particular re-establishing the 'service' in public servant and reaffirming citizens leadership role

- Transform citizen participation in local government beyond the act of voting to one whereby Winnipeg becomes a global leader in participatory democracy
- Be the North American leader in openness and transparency for municipal government

By 2018:

- 80% or greater of citizens indicate a moderate to high level of trust in Winnipeg's elected officials to effectively manage the City of Winnipeg (estimated population 699,346 as of July 2013)
- 80% or greater of citizens indicate a moderate to high level of satisfaction with the openness and transparency at City Hall
- 80% or greater of citizens indicate a moderate to high level of satisfaction with elected municipal officials' accountability to citizens
- 65% of eligible voters cast ballots in the 2018 civic election (47.1% of 452,910 eligible voters cast ballots in 2010)

By 2022:

- Winnipeg voter turnout (percentage of eligible voters) leads all major urban centres in North America
- Winnipeg voters level of trust in elected municipal officials is the highest of any municipal government in North America

Be BOLD

Accountability

- Establish legislated job descriptions for the Mayor and City Councillors to clearly articulate the expectations of citizens and the roles and responsibilities for elected officials
 - Annual performance reports would be prepared and published by the Mayor and each Councillor, demonstrating performance against the criteria

See BOLD

In British Columbia, *The Community Charter* and *The Local Government Act* stipulate the roles and responsibilities of a Mayor and Councillor.

- Create an index of motions and voting history for each City Councillor and Mayor that is easily available on the City's website
- Create an Ethics Code of Conduct along with an Ethics Commission / Commissioner
 - Ethics Commission or Commissioner would publish annual public reports on Mayor and Councillors' compliance with the Code of Conduct

Civic-Provincial Relationship

- Create a semi-annual civic-provincial summit meeting, modelled after the First Ministers meetings between the federal and provincial governments
- Review The City of Winnipeg Charter, in collaboration with the Province of Manitoba, and revise as needed to ensure the City is afforded the necessary powers and flexibility to promote self-determination and self-sufficiency

Governance

- Legislate a limit of three consecutive terms for Mayor and City Council
- Pilot the use of online voting to encourage and increase voter participation

See BOLD

In 2014, Markham was the first municipality in Canada to introduce electronic voting as part of a comprehensive engagement strategy to increase participation in elections. Six of the ten provinces have legislation enabling electronic voting in municipal elections (Manitoba does not currently). Elections Canada survey data reveals that among the general population in all survey years, time constraints or accessibility issues are mentioned most commonly to account for respondents not voting.

- Assess the benefits of implementing a new model for electing City Council – such as the city-wide slate model (Vancouver) or hybrid slate and ward model (St. John's)

See BOLD

Vancouver City Council is made up of the Mayor and ten Councillors who are elected at large for a three-year term. The Mayor is the Chair of City Council. A Deputy Mayor is chosen monthly from among the Councillors. Vancouver operates without an Executive Committee or cabinet structure; councilors are given lead responsibility for various civic portfolios. St. John's, Newfoundland has five councillors representing wards, four at-large councillors, one mayor and one elected deputy mayor.

- Restructure City Council governance to eliminate the 'have' and 'have not' division, hierarchy and secrecy among Councillors, considering various options such as:
 - opening attendance at Executive Policy Committee meetings to all Councillors
 - requiring Executive Policy Committee to report directly to Council as a whole
 - eliminating Executive Policy Committee, creating portfolios for key civic priorities to reflect citizens' priorities, such as budget and finance, economic development, community planning,



downtown development, housing, innovation / efficiency, transportation, environment and public safety. The Mayor would appoint each Councillor to lead, in collaboration with other Councillors, one or more portfolios, each of whom would be required to report back to Council directly. Council could vote on each portfolio lead, as an alternative to mayoral appointments.

- Allocate one student leader from every high school in a City of Winnipeg Youth Advisory Committee; Institute a Youth City Council during City Council recess in August, based on the Youth Parliament of Manitoba model
- Empower the Winnipeg Wards Boundary Commission to examine the benefits of creating a ward that would encompass the entire downtown exclusively

Openness and Transparency

- Assess the need and value of instituting ballot questions during civic elections on major policy items, such as long-term infrastructure plans

- Expand the City of Winnipeg's open source data platforms, based on the City of Regina model, to become a North American leader; commit to minimal rules of usage to promote maximum usage and value of the data for citizens
- Consider implementing an external technology advisory panel that would advise on new technologies and approaches to support greater openness and user-friendliness

See BOLD

The City of Regina operates an Open Data Catalogue - a "self-serve" portal that allows the public to download/view City of Regina data in different formats. In addition, the catalogue tool (OGDI) allows citizens to do simple data analysis, mapping and chart creation. Further, the City of Regina encourages citizens who have developed an application using the City's data to submit the application for posting on the City's website.

On July 8, 2014, the City of Winnipeg launched a new open data portal (data.winnipeg.ca) with an expanded array of data sets. This new portal is in addition to the May 2013 "NOW" portal which provides a range of open data on the City's diverse and historical 236 neighborhoods. Further, City of Winnipeg Council meetings are now available for viewing live online, along with a library of past meetings.

- Reduce barriers to public participation in City Council meetings through linkages via two-way video conferencing technology in civic community centres throughout Winnipeg
- Expand e-CIS (electronic citizens' information service) for more interaction between residents, municipal services and elected officials for greater communication and connectivity