

**Subject: Public Engagement Policy - PRC-130****APPROVALS:****Matthew Harrison**\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Public Engagement Policy PRC-130, dated May 10, 2022, as outlined in Attachment 1 be approved.

**Summary:**

The Public Engagement Policy (PRC-130) is the foundation for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Public Engagement work. This Public Engagement Policy (the Policy) was originally approved by Council in 2016 and is before Council as part of the regular organizational policy review process.

**Background:**

In 2016, Council passed a Public Engagement Policy to formalize the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's (the Municipality) commitment to providing Public Engagement opportunities within the region. The Policy helped to establish the importance of engaging in purposeful and meaningful dialogue with the public to create opportunities for sharing information and gathering feedback on municipal services, projects, and initiatives. This, in turn, supports and informs the decision-making process and helps shape the work that the Municipality undertakes.

The Policy has been updated to reflect current practices and processes that Administration has undertaken in this area over the last six years. Sections related to General Procedures on Public Engagement, such as when engagement is considered and using a framework to determine level of engagement, have been added or updated. Additionally, a section has been added that takes into consideration the Indigenous and Rural Relations Department's Protocol Agreement initiative, and that Indigenous engagement is captured in those Agreements.

At its core, the Public Engagement Policy (PRC-130) supports the following objectives:

- build and maintain cooperative working relationships with the public;

- facilitate sharing of information;
- account for a diversity of needs and backgrounds;
- actively and respectfully engage the public in decisions about developments, and changes to, Municipal programs, services, and projects, and policies; and
- reach balanced decisions on issues of public interest and concern.

As well, as of 2018, it is required under Alberta's *Municipal Government Act*, section 216.1, that all municipalities in Alberta must have a public participation policy. This Policy meets that requirement for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with this Policy.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

This Policy continues to support the Municipality's Public Engagement work. This Policy updates the current Public Engagement Policy, passed by Council in 2016, and aligns with the organization's current policies and practices. As well, it satisfies the requirement for a Public Participation Policy under the *Municipal Government Act*.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Responsible Government

**Attachments:**

- 1. Public Engagement Policy PRC-130 (Updated Version)**
- 2. Public Engagement Policy PRC-130 (Redlined Version)**