

Request for Decision

Title	2015 GFOA Canadian Award for Financial Reporting (CAnFR)
Proposed Motion	That Council receive the report for the 2015 Canadian Award for Financial Reporting and directs Administration to continue working towards increasing transparency in Financial Reporting.
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends that Council accept the CAnFR award report as information.
Previous Council Direction	None
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturgeon County has been awarded The Canadian Award for Financial Reporting (CAnFR) by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its 2015 Annual Financial Report. • The CAnFR was established to encourage municipal governments throughout Canada to publish high quality financial reports. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government organization and its management team. • The annual financial report has been judged by impartial Canadian Review Committee members to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” designed to clearly communicate the municipality’s financial story and to motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. • The cost to have the annual report reviewed was \$315, to achieve the award the report had to meet the strict criteria of the program. • 2015 represents the eighth (8th) consecutive year that Sturgeon County has received the CAnFR award and is one of seventeen (17) municipalities in Alberta and sixty-nine (69) Canada-wide that received the award for the 2015 year-end. • Receiving the CAnFR award eight times in a row signifies a continued dedication and focused effort to meet standards set out by GFOA. Sturgeon County has taken a focused effort to meet these “ever increasing” standards and to incorporate improvements in areas like quality of Financial Reporting, linkage to Business Plans, Performance Reporting, etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving nearly 19,000 government finance professionals in the United States and Canada with offices in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington D.C. <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAnFR award announcement will be published in both the weekly <i>Free Press</i> and Redwater Review Sturgeon County FYI. A News Release will be available online and disseminated to other media outlets. The award certificate will be reflected in the 2016 Annual Financial Report to be released June 2017. <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 276 of the <i>Municipal Government Act</i>, R.S.A. 2000, C.M-26 requires municipalities to submit an annual audited financial statement to the Minister by May 1st of each year.
<p>Implication of Administrative Recommendation</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – Achieving the CAnFR award demonstrates Sturgeon County’s commitment to operational excellence, continuous improvement, transparency, and accountability that builds credibility for Sturgeon County in the community. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of the CAnFR award has a positive influence on staff engagement and commitment. The preparation of an annual financial report is a coordinated effort by the Financial Services Team, Communications as well as Corporate Support Admin Assistant Dianne Johnston. <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>Application to have the Annual Report evaluated costs about \$315 annually.</p>
<p>Alternatives Considered</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Implications of Alternatives</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Follow up Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Press Release – Communications (February 28, 2017) Reflect the Award in the 2016 Annual Financial Report – Finance/Communications (June 30, 2017)

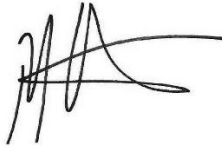
Attachment(s)

1. CAnFR Award Certificate
2. 2015 CAnFR Award Winners
3. 2015 Annual Report Link Insert

**Report Reviewed
by:**



Manager, Financial Services



Rick Wojtkiw, GM Corporate Support



Peter Tarnawsky, County Commissioner – CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

Mission: Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans, policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respect the Natural Environment			
<i>We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<i>We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>