

R.W. Hay Award for Rural Administrative Excellence

Nominee Information			
Name	Peter Tarnawsky		
Employed By	Sturgeon County		
Professional Designation	B Comm; MBA;		
Address	9613 – 100 Street Morinville Alberta T8R 1L9		
Telephone	(780) 939-8345		
Nominator Information			
Name	Karen Shaw		
Title	Councillor		
Municipality	Sturgeon County		
Address	9613 – 100 Street Morinville Alberta T8R 1L9		
Telephone	(780) 939-4321	Fax	(780) 939-3003
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>		<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	
Signature of Nominator		Date of Nomination	
Endorsement			
<p>The nomination of <u>Peter Tarnawsky</u> for the AAMDC R.W. Hay Award for</p> <p>Rural Administrative Excellence is endorsed by the Council of <u>Sturgeon County</u></p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;">September 12, 2017</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p>Signature of Mayor</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p>Date</p> </div> </div>			

Deadline for nominations: September 22, 2017

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☒ **Reasons for Nomination**

In a written submission of no more than 750 words, please state your reasons for nominating this candidate. **Please structure your comments to correspond with the following areas on which the nominations will be ranked:**

1. ***Community Involvement.*** Examples may include the following:
 - sports/recreation participation or leadership
 - public service
 - volunteer activities
 - involvement in community clubs or organizations
2. ***Exemplary Service.*** Please limit the response to five examples in support of the nomination. Examples may include the following:
 - instances of creative or inspirational leadership
 - contributions outside “normal” administrative duties
 - involvement in provincial organizations or professional groups
 - involvement in external service delivery groups
3. ***Innovations and Achievements on Behalf of Municipality.*** Please limit the response to five examples in support of the nomination. Examples should list the following:
 - specific achievements
 - enhancements to municipal services
 - municipal milestones
 - innovations in leadership
 - relationship with council or human resources
 - new approaches
 - new services
 - new efficiencies
4. ***Education and Training.*** Please list all education, training, professional development and certification held or being pursued by the nominee.
5. ***Other Comments.*** Please list any other comments you feel might be relevant and merit consideration.

Program Purpose and Objectives

The R.W. Hay Award is awarded by the AAMDC Board of Directors on an annual basis in recognition of excellence in rural municipal administration. There is a maximum of one award granted per calendar year, but the award does not have to be granted if insufficient applications are received.

Eligibility

Any chief administrative officer that served or is serving in the current calendar year in an AAMDC member municipality is eligible to be nominated. No individual may receive the award more than once. An individual who sits on the R.W. Hay Evaluation Committee may not be nominated.

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Who Can Nominate

Anyone is eligible to nominate a candidate for the award, but the nomination form must be endorsed by the Council of the employing municipality and signed by the reeve/mayor.

Nomination Deadline

The nomination deadline is **September 22, 2017**.

Criteria for Nominators to Consider

In evaluating the individuals nominated, consideration will be given to innovations or achievements on behalf of the municipality, examples of exemplary service, pursuit of education, training and professional development and areas of community involvement. Nominators are encouraged to include no more than five examples of exemplary service and innovation in support of the nomination. Neither impending retirement nor length of service will be the focus of the evaluation committee in determining the award recipient.

Evaluation Committee

Nominations will be evaluated by a committee comprising three (3) past award recipients, three (3) representatives from the Society of Local Government Managers and one (1) member of the AAMDC Board of Directors.

Form and Presentation of Award

A uniquely designed keepsake and a \$2,000 cash award will be presented to the winner at the Opening Ceremonies of the annual AAMDC Fall Convention.

Submission of Nominations

Nominations must be submitted on or before **September 22, 2017** to Cindy Carstairs at:

AAMDC
R.W. Hay Award Program
2510 Sparrow Drive
Nisku, AB T9E 8N5
Telephone: 780.955.4095
Fax: 780.955.3615
E-mail: cindy.carstairs@aamdc.com

Nomination:

Mr. Tarnawsky became CAO of Sturgeon County in 2011 and has worked tirelessly with Council to transform Sturgeon County's Strategic Direction, Governance and Operations, delivering significant progress and results.

During the 2013 Council Orientation, his advice to Council was to consider themselves the Board of a \$70M corporation and to provide guidance employing Strategic Management processes common in multi-billion dollar private corporations. Tarnawsky worked with Council to establish Proceedings and Committees Bylaws as well as Public Consultation, Code of Conduct, Corporate Strategy, and Major Growth Tax Revenue Policies like you would expect to find in large municipalities.

Tarnawsky guided Council through development and approval of a Strategic Plan, Business Plans and budgets, the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaws, all to improve sustainability and competitiveness.

As a result, Sturgeon County has emerged as a leader in the municipal sector with recognition as follows:

- Fourth best place to live in Alberta (**MoneySense** – 2017)
- Best County and #8 Best Community in Alberta to do business (**Alberta Venture Magazine** – 2016)
- **Government Finance Officers Association**
 - Distinguished Budget Presentation (2016)
 - Award for Financial Reporting (2011/2012/2013/2014/2015 – Sturgeon County)
- **Frontier Centre for Public Policy** – Canada's Top 10 Municipalities in financial transparency (2015)
- Top 25 Best Communities for Business in Western Canada (**Alberta Venture Magazine** - 2011)
- **Economic Developers Association of Alberta - Award of Excellence** (2011)

Mr. Tarnawsky restructured the organization to compete globally through an Integrated Growth division in support of Economic Development. Departments delivering service to customers were aligned in one Municipal Services division employing Operational Excellence strategies unique to the municipal sector. Finally, a Corporate Support division was formed to consolidate all support to operational efforts.

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The results below speak for themselves:

- > 300% increase in assessed value in the Sturgeon Industrial Park since 2011;
- Improved Health & Safety Audit score from 92% (2011) to 97% (2016);
- Increased Employee Engagement from 73% to 83% (2015);
- Reduced staff turnover from 19% (2011) to 4% (2016);
- Improved resident satisfaction with service delivery in all but one service area (2017); (Note: decline in one service area not statistically significant.)
- Improved residential to non-residential assessment ratio from 64%/36% (2011) to 55%/45% (2016)
- More than doubled the General Operating Reserve from \$1.298M (2011) to \$4.26 (2016)
- Sturgeon County is at or better than median of Municipal Affairs Financial Information Return measures.
- Implemented innovative Customer Relationship Management system to respond to customer contacts efficiently and effectively.

Most significant is Tarnawsky's leadership in securing Pembina Polypropylene and Propane Dehydrogenation Facility investments (est. \$5B) within Sturgeon County, after facilities were announced for construction in another municipality. Council approved a Memorandum of Agreement detailing innovative approaches to securing the investment.

During 2016/17 Mr. Tarnawsky provided unique input ensuring the needs of rural municipalities were addressed in modernized MGA and related regulations, including Growth Management Board Regulations. Noteworthy was his success convincing Municipal Affairs Assessment and Taxation area that the Centralized Assessment transition was too aggressive, suggesting "a hybrid approach" that will now have certain municipalities assess Designated Industrial Plants (DIP's) on behalf of the Province, at least for the time being.

Tarnawsky pursued unique training and development to build leadership and improve support to Council, namely completing Institute of Corporate Directors courses in Audit; Director Effectiveness; Risk Oversight; Finance, HR and Compensation. In addition he completed **LEAD** Executive Leadership at University of Virginia. Peter participates in LGAA, ARMAA, CLGM Mountain Refresher, CAMA and ICMA as time and calendar commitments permit.

Mr. Tarnawsky enjoys strong relationships and has the respect of Council and other key stakeholder, as reflected in an innovative annual 360° Review including Councillors, senior staff, peer CAO's and key developers and industrial investors. On the overall, the report shows that Peter performs beyond the expectations of the role.

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He is a member of the Industrial Heartland Secretariat; as Acting Heartland Executive Director and participated in recruitment during a six month vacancy. Between 2011 and 2016, Mr. Tarnawsky was the Sturgeon County volunteer appointee to the Board of the Heartland Land Trust Society, as Treasurer for one year and Chair for four years. Peter was present when the Municipal Mayor's Alliance work was conceived and frequently advised the MMA Panel and Mayors.

In terms of **Community Involvement**, Mr. Tarnawsky regularly participates in county-sponsored events including Family Fun Days; Culinary Cook-outs; Open Houses; Statutory and other Consultations. Mr. Tarnawsky strongly represents Sturgeon County at regional municipal partner events where he is respected by both CAO peers and elected officials. On occasion he has attended District Chamber and Rotary club events and functions.