

TOPIC: Performance & Accountability Framework

Trend / Issue

The sector is facing increasing pressure to measure performance, verify public accountability and be continue to build capacity. With a variety of initiatives underway over the last couple of years, PRO has developed a “*Performance and Accountability Framework*” to assist in coordinating and managing these inter-related strategies.

Background

The following initiatives have been undertaken or are ongoing, that relate in varying ways to enhanced performance and public/sector accountability;

- introduction of the Municipal Performance Management Program (MPMP) for Parks and Recreation
- ongoing approach to work with CPRA to develop outcome based performance measures
- development of High Performance Standards evaluation tool and training initiatives
- certification and accreditation within the sector
- data collection related to Infrastructure
- best practices research
- trend analysis

While independent in some ways, there is a clear link to these items in their inherent impact on the sector as it relates to performance, accountability and capacity building. A framework was development to solidify the links and to develop a workplan so that resources were maximized and mutually supportive outcomes could be pursued.

Current Status

The framework includes inter-related projects under 3 headings:

- Measurement Systems
- Performance Improvement and Quality Assurance Tools
- Sector Research

Components of the strategy have been divided to show work-in-progress, work outstanding and potential future considerations (if resources are confirmed). The framework also identifies questions that will be answered with each phase of work, and provides links to other initiatives or organizations that are related. The intention is to use the framework to guide the independent initiatives and to ensure that resources are aligned and maximized.

A Working group has been established to assist in monitoring the work within the framework and to provide consistency and feedback to the PRO Board. The framework has been used to support project applications to fund various aspects of the strategy.

Links

PRO partner organizations
Ministries

Impact / Implications

With an increasing need to monitor performance and measure the impact of the sector, the framework should assist in understanding the interrelationship between the 3 components. There is a very real need for additional research in the sector, and a continued proactive attempt to focus on understanding the sector, supporting analysis and public reporting with a view to future capacity building and sectoral strategy development.

Additional resources are required to realize ultimate potential for all components as identified.

Possible Sector Position

PRO and partners continue to reference the Framework to explain the context for a variety of related initiatives underway. PRO and partners continue to support the need for improved sector research, capacity building and strategy development to assist with sectoral measurement and accountability.

Contact

Prepared by: Jennifer Reynolds
Director of Community Services,
Town of Milton

For further information about this Trend Watch or the Public Affairs Task Group, contact:



Larry Ketcheson,
CEO Parks and Recreation Ontario
pro@prontario.org
(416) 426-7142