



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARENESS WEEK

1. Contests & Participation

- ▶ Mayor or Chair for a day – Run a contest for a local resident to fill the position
- ▶ Junior Council – Invite students to shadow councillors and/or senior staff to learn about council and local government operations
- ▶ Photo Contest – Invite residents to submit photos on a relevant theme.
- ▶ Quiz of Jurisdiction – Let community members test their knowledge of what operations local governments are responsible. An alternate quiz could test residents' understanding of where property taxes go.

Junior Council 

2. Community Events

- ▶ Sporting Event – Challenge local sports teams to a friendly match against a local government team, made up of elected members and staff.
- ▶ Open Houses & Tours – Invite community members to tour municipal hall, fire stations, police stations, water treatment plants, education/school offices, etc.
- ▶ Awards Event – Provide awards to those individuals contributing to the community.
- ▶ Community picnic – Host a pancake breakfast or community picnic with elected officials.

- ▶ Meet & Greet – Invite the public to meet elected officials and staff. This could be before a council/board meeting, or at an informal social evening at your local government building.

3. Information Sharing

- ▶ Calendar – Develop a calendar for distribution to your residents that indicates key community events and dates important to the local government. You might illustrate it with pictures taken by residents that feature local landmarks.
- ▶ Speakers Bureau – Publish a list of elected officials and staff who could be available to speak about local government to community organizations such as Rotary Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, senior's centres or schools. You may want to tie this activity in with any public consultations being undertaken as part of the budget development process.
- ▶ Job Shadowing – Arrange for students to work in your city hall or board office through work programs. By shadowing or working with specific staff members they will gain knowledge about local government.
- ▶ Staff Profiles – Film a short 'day in the life' video of local government employees sharing what they do, what they like about working for the local government, etc.