



Regional Council Assessments: Your Relevance Can Depend On It

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The Assessment Process

- Began in 1994 ...46 assessments conducted
- It is not a checklist
- Has to be requested by council or association
- Each tailored to a specific need
- Position the council to be more relevant, significant and responsive

Assessment Logistics

- Basic framework that is tweaked:
 - a. Confidential survey, one-on-one interviews or combination
 - b. Up to six focus group sessions either by category or geography
 - c. Worksession with council governing body
 - d. Complete Record Report

85% of the Time

- Non-board member and potential/real partner participants welcome and appreciate being asked to be involved in the process and provide input of what the ideal council should look like and the roles it should play
- Non-board and board members alike have minimal knowledge of the mission, roles, activities, and ownership of the council
- Real relevancy is questioned

85% of the Time

- Staff's perceptions of themselves, their Board, and their constituents is different from those perceptions carried by the Board and constituents toward the staff
- The deliberations and findings of the survey/interviews and the focus groups give courage or broaden the minds of the policy board to look at their council in a different light

SPECIFICS

- Ownership
- Relationship with Local Governments
- Convening Role (s)
- Relevancy

Ownership

- Most enabling legislation for regional councils specifically names local government as the owners of regional councils.
- Some include others

Relationship with Local Governments

- Awareness of the legal connection
- Focus not on individual or regional needs or opportunities
- Financial Support and recognition of value

Convener of the Region

- The most logical point
- Opportunities, challenges, and issues
- Blueprint for the region
- Bring the applicable regional players, public & private together
- Support however applicable

Relevancy

- Overarching
- Are you asked to be at the table?
- Are you called upon?

Outcomes

- The desired regional council is often very different from the actual regional council
- Communication internally and externally are often a key point in the process
- Governance Structure is often considered as an impediment
- Financial support to the council from its owners
- Positions the council to be relevant

Next Steps

- Implementation recommendations
- Local Government Buy-In
 - a. Elected Bodies
 - b. Professional Staffs