



Citizen Advisory Committee

Governance Matters Get Informed!

What is it?

- There are lots of interpretations, but it is fundamentally about how organizations ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest, accountable manner.
- Governance includes all the systems and processes, values and rules that are designed to coordinate and control an organization’s actions and resources.

Why is it important? It leads to:

- Good decision-making
- Good management
- Good performance
- Good service protocols
- Good policies and practices
- Good meeting procedures
- Good stewardship of public money
- Good Council and staff relationships and conduct
- Good public engagement

What does good governance look like? It is:

Accountable	Obligations are met to report to the public, explain and be answerable for decisions and their consequences
Transparent	Decision-making should be easy to follow and understand
Follows the Rule of Law	Decisions should be consistent with relevant legislation and common law, and within Council’s powers
Responsive	Needs of entire community are served, and competing needs are balanced in a timely, appropriate, responsive manner
Equitable and Inclusive	All groups, particularly the most vulnerable, should have opportunities to participate in the decision-making process
Effective and Efficient	Decisions and processes should make the best use of the available people, resources and time
Participatory	Those affected by the decision should have the opportunity to participate in the process for making that decision

Local Governance Context in BC

Municipalities	Regional Districts	Improvement Districts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● cities● towns● districts● villages <p>➤ provide broad range of services and regulate a variety of activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● municipalities● electoral areas <p>➤ can provide variety of services, except roads, policing</p> <p>➤ regional board decides services to provide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● vary from small subdivisions to larger communities● primarily rural <p>➤ empowered to provide local services but not general governance or land use planning</p>

Saanich Governance Review Topics

Each local government operates through a governance framework that brings together an underlying set of legislative requirements, governance principles and management processes. The Saanich Governance Review will focus on the following key components of governance. Saanich citizens will have multiple opportunities to participate in this process. See saanich.ca/governancereview for details.

❖ Authority

- Lines of authority between Council and staff, clarity around functions
- Strategic leadership, including articulation of vision, purpose and outcomes
- Regulatory processes and how they are exercised

❖ Accountability

- Degree and scope of public engagement
- Public reporting of progress and activities
- Timeliness and responsiveness
- Compliance with strategic plan, financial plan, policy and regulation
- Standards of conduct and behaviour

❖ Decision-making

- Transparency of decision-making process
- Degree to which decision-makers are well informed, and supported by objective, quality information and advice
- Management of risk

❖ Continuous Improvement

- Development of Council and staff capacity and capability
- Regular evaluation and course correction

❖ Regional Role

- Relationships between local governments, Capital Regional District, First Nations, and provincial and federal governments
- Partnerships and collaborations