



Leading in Chains: **Mayors in Canada**

“There are **no strong mayors in Canada.** [...] Most mayors in Canada are weak in that they control neither the bureaucracy or the council.”

- Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government* (2015)

Mayoral authority in provincial legislation

	*Vand	*Calg	Saska	*Winr	*Toron	*Mont	Saint	Halifa	*Char	*St. J
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Preside over meetings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Call special meetings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sign bylaws and cheques	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Make appointments	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Appoint deputies and chairs	X			X	X	X			X	
Provide direction	X						X	X		
Oversee employee conduct	X			X		X				X
Suspend employees	X			X		X				X
Suspend Council decisions				X		X				

Mayoral authority in municipal by-laws

	Van couver, BC*	Calg ary, AB*	Sas kato on, SK	Win nipe g, BM*	Toro nto, ON*	Mon treal , QC*	Sain t John , NB	Halif ax, NS	Char lottet own, PE*	St. John 's, NL*
Mayor can make appointments	X			X	X	X			X	
Appointments increase salary	X			X		X			X	
Appoint executive committee				X	X	X				
Mayor is F/T position	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
Mayor is only F/T position			X					X		X
Mayor is only at large position		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Mayor has 2x staff + budget	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Local political parties	X						X			
Closed caucus or executive	X			X			X			

Mayoral authority through institutional arrangements

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Calgary Saint John	Saskatoon Toronto Halifax Charlottetown St. John's	Vancouver Winnipeg Montreal

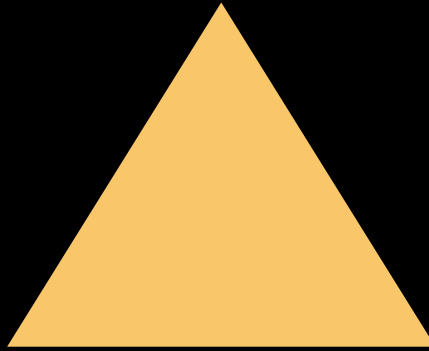
Institutional
variables



Leadership of individual
in the role

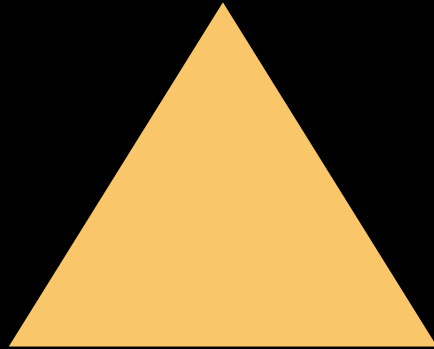
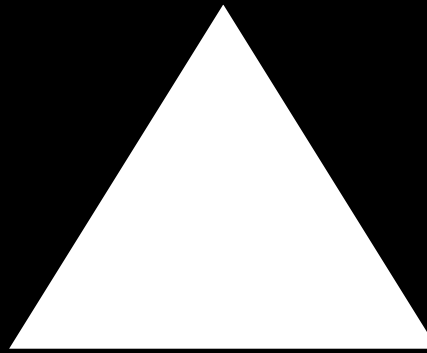
The Mayor's Role

Political Leader



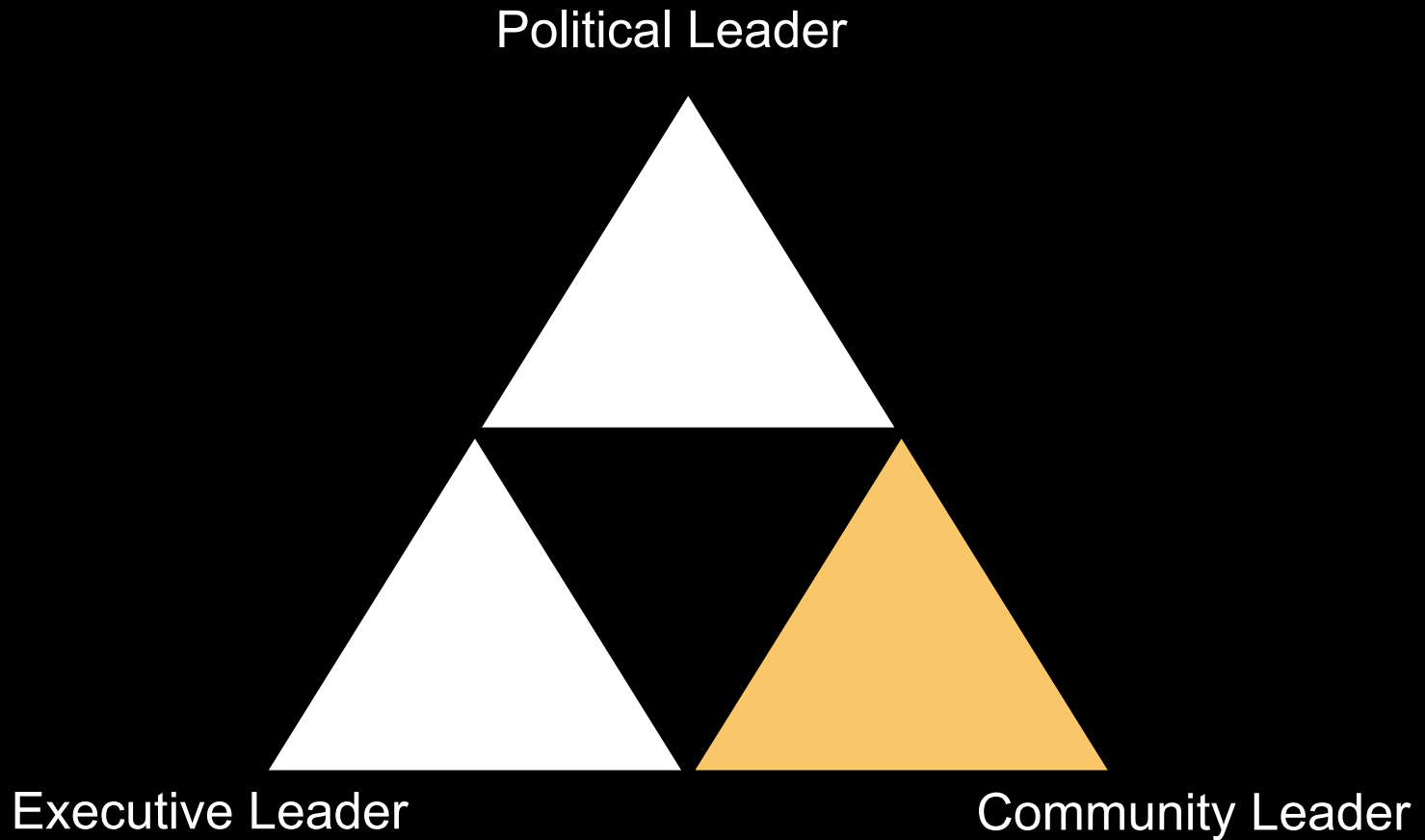
The Mayor's Role

Political Leader

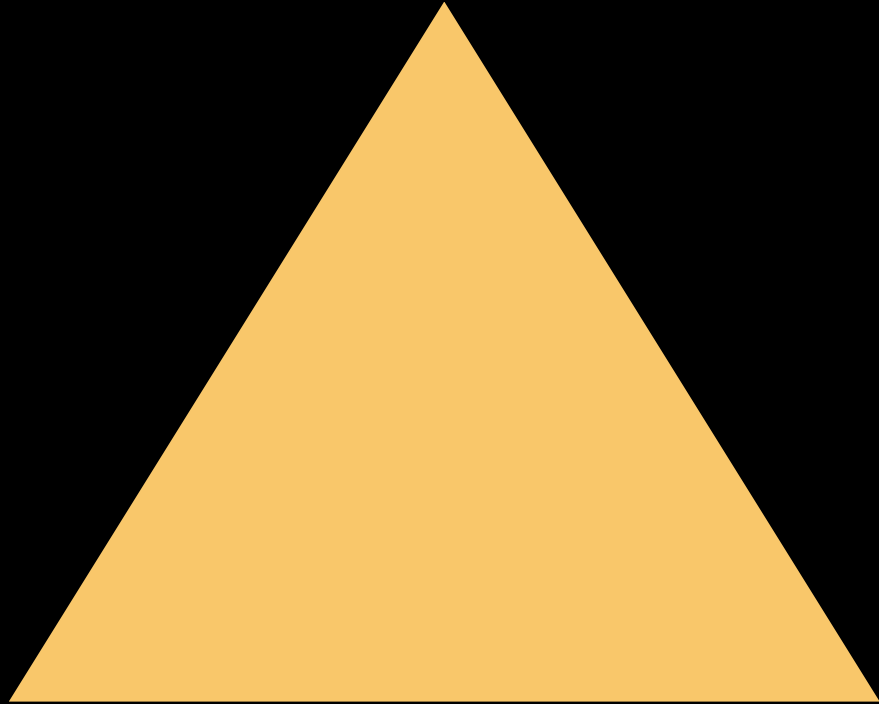


Executive Leader

The Mayor's Role



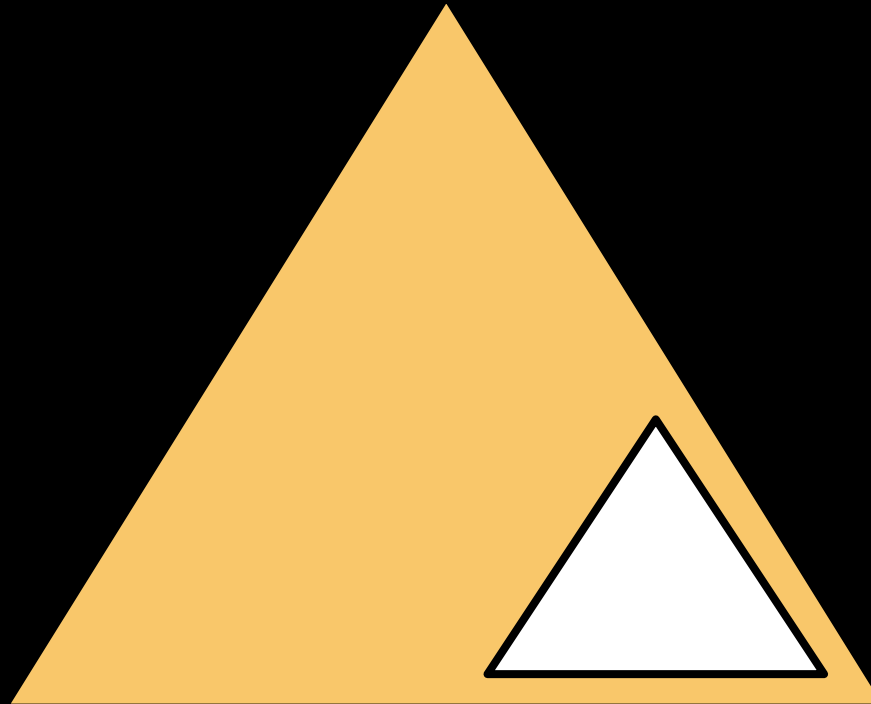
Political Leader



Executive Leader

Community Leader

Political Leader



Executive Leader

Community Leader

Bill 3: Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022

The head of council may:

- Determine organizational structure
- Hire, dismiss and exercise power over CAO and heads of divisions (with exceptions)
- Appoint chair and vice chairs to local boards
- Establish, dissolve and appoint committees
- Vetos for “provincial priorities”
- Propose a budget

THE BOTTOM LINE

Local governance **should** be a local government decision.

STRONG MUNICIPALITIES > STRONG MAYORS

- **Political powers:** agendas, appointments, committees, engaging with other governments
- **Executive powers:** delegated power of key policy issues, control over budget expenditures, influence with external bodies
- **Community powers:** proclamations, citizen appointments to boards, more resources for vocally pushing policy priorities

LESSON FOR ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

If the current governance model isn't working: **change it.**



THANK YOU

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