

# Municipal Governance

# What Is *Municipal Governance*?

- ▶ Political organization of a Municipality
- ▶ Act of governing
- ▶ Understand governance through municipal origins



# Where Did Municipalities Come From?

- ▶ Many predate confederation
- ▶ 1849 Baldwin Act
- ▶ Municipalities had great local independence
- ▶ Abuse of new found powers

# Impacts of Confederation

- ▶ 1867 - Confederation - Canada & Provinces formed
- ▶ Federal & Provincial Governments autonomous and guaranteed constitutional position
- ▶ Section 92(8) - Provinces given responsibility for “Municipal Institutions in the Province”
  
- ▶ Greater demands for local services
- ▶ Municipalities continued to abuse power
- ▶ Increased Municipal restrictions

# Fast Forward to Today

- ▶ Creatures of the Province
- ▶ Impacted by many different pieces of legislation
- ▶ Involved with many branches of the Province
  
- ▶ Governed by *Municipal Act, 2001*
- ▶ Greater local flexibility

# Creatures of the Province

- ▶ Can only exist through the Province
- ▶ Decisions in accordance with authority delegated by the Province
- ▶ Section 2:
  - ▶ “Municipalities are created by the Province of Ontario to be responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction and each municipality is given powers and duties under this Act and many other Acts for the purpose of providing good government with respect to those matters.”
- ▶ Powers of a natural person
- ▶ Broad authorities / permissive powers

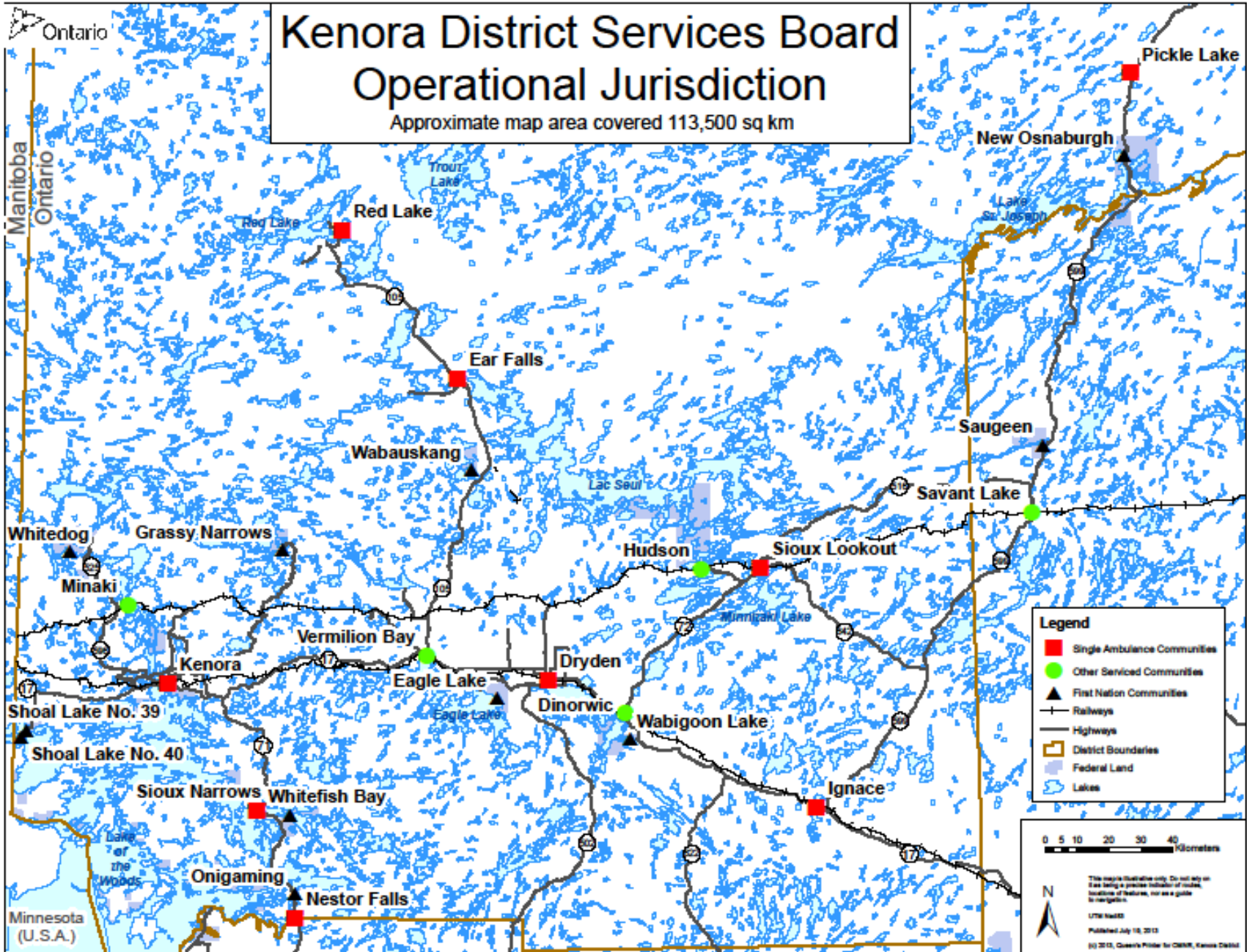
# Authorities

- ▶ Governance structure
- ▶ Accountability and transparency
- ▶ Financial management
- ▶ Public assets
- ▶ Economic, social and environmental well being of municipality
- ▶ Health, safety and well-being of persons
- ▶ Services and things that the municipality is authorized to provide
- ▶ Protection to persons and property
- ▶ Animals
- ▶ Structures
- ▶ Business Licensing



# Northern Governance

- ▶ District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSAB's)
- ▶ Provide consolidated municipal services
  
- ▶ Kenora District Services Board (KDSB)
  - ▶ Representative from Council of each member municipality
  - ▶ Unincorporated area representatives
  - ▶ Services provided:
    - ▶ Ontario Works
    - ▶ Child Care
    - ▶ Land Ambulance
    - ▶ Social Housing / Homelessness



# Working in Partnership - Treaty Relationships

- ▶ Kenora is within Treaty #3 Area
- ▶ KDSB Area includes Treaty #3 and Treaty #9
  
- ▶ Opportunities for partnership
  - ▶ Common Ground

# Working in Partnership - Municipal Organizations

- ▶ Many Municipal Organizations
- ▶ Northwestern Ontario
  - ▶ NOMA
  - ▶ KDMA
- ▶ Requirement to consult under Municipal Act
  - ▶ AMO
  - ▶ MOU - signed in 2008

# How is Local Government Different from Senior Government?

- ▶ “The most important - and least important - level of government”
- ▶ Provide services impacting every day life
  - ▶ Roads & sidewalks
  - ▶ Fire
  - ▶ Water & sewer
- ▶ Evoke strong passion or apathy
  
- ▶ Mayor and Council Members known to voters
- ▶ Most accessible of all levels of government

# Structure of Council

- ▶ Head of Council
  - ▶ CEO
  - ▶ Leadership & vision
  - ▶ Promotes the Municipality
  - ▶ Only one vote on Council
- ▶ Council
  - ▶ Representative
  - ▶ Policy making
  - ▶ Stewardship Role

# How Municipal Decisions Are Made

- ▶ Exercised by Council on behalf of residents
- ▶ Based on broad permissive powers
- ▶ Transparency
  
- ▶ Enacting local legislation - by-laws
- ▶ By-laws passed through a “Majority of a Quorum of Council”
  - ▶ Majority rule
  
- ▶ Cannot conflict with Federal or Provincial Legislation
- ▶ Must be within municipal boundaries, unless authorized
- ▶ Cannot bind future Councils

# Moving Forward

- ▶ Continued and increased involvement with Province
- ▶ Continued opportunities for partnerships and working together



# Pop Quiz

Thank you - for staying awake... 😊