



## **County Council Selects New Chief Administrative Officer**

- **April 8, 2024**

Council is pleased to announce that Mr. Gerhard Stickling has been selected as the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the County of Northern Lights. He will be assuming his new role and responsibilities on May 13, 2024.

This is the key leadership position within the County Administration, and we were fortunate to have attracted strong candidates from across Alberta and western Canada.

After many years of progressive upward moves within the IT business in his native South Africa, Mr. Stickling and his wife decided to make the move to Canada in 2020. They settled in Wabasca, AB, and he began his foray into local government leadership with the Municipal District (MD) of Opportunity.

As the Executive Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services, Mr. Stickling oversaw several administrative functions including Human Resources, IT Services, Planning & Development, Facility Management, FCSS, Health & Safety, Bylaw, Fire Services, as well as the MD operated Daycare and Medical Clinic. Both he and his wife also serve on the local volunteer fire department, and they have proven to be instrumental members of the team.

Having completed his National Advanced Certificate in Local Authority Administration (NACLAA, Level 1 and Level 2), he is closing in on his Certified Local Government Manager (CLGM) designation. Already possessing a Bachelor's degree, as well as a Master of Business Leadership degree, Mr. Stickling is an avid life-long learner.

With his solid educational credentials, his direct relevant experience, his rural farming background, and his willingness to settle in the County of Northern Lights, the Council feels that Mr. Stickling will be a great fit and asset to the already solid administrative team.

Council wishes to thank retiring CAO Ms. Theresa Van Oort for her 20 plus years of service to the County of Northern Lights. Also, a large thank you must be extended to Mr. Josh Hunter (Director of Finance) and the whole administrative team for their continued commitment and hard work during this process.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Stickling and his wife to the County.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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