Political Administrative Interface

The role of a planner involves professional and political relationships among parties with very different goals. This theme builds understanding of the fundamentals of government, and encourages "best practice" by planners in their council, staff, inter-departmental and public relations.

Subtopic	Learning Outcome/Key Elements	Guiding/Essential Questions "What questions can I ask to ensure I arrive at the intended learning outcome?"
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Council Staff Relations	An understanding of how to promote good council / staff relations.	• What are the elements needed to ensure a positive working relationship between planners and their council? • How do you balance the competing interests of governance and administration? • How do you get a council to 'buy in' to good planning?
Breaking Down Silos: Interdepartmental relations Facing the Red Tape	How planners can promote good planning amongst other departments and council How to ensure that policy and process achieves good planning. How to avoid duplication in a multi-jurisdictional environment Big picture thinking	• How can planners 'bridge the gap' between competing departmental interests (i.e. parks and red vs. roads vs. environmental, etc)? • Is planning the linchpin of a municipality? • How can planners implement change? • How do you distinguish between good policy / administrative process and 'red tape'? • How can planners champion administrative efficiency in multi-jurisdictional environments? • How do planners look beyond the manual?
Municipalities 101: The Basics of Local Governance	Understanding of the foundations of municipal government in Ontario. Policy vs. development approvals Aimed at private sector planners – fundamental information How do different municipalities operate	• What are the fundamental rules surrounding municipalities in Ontario (i.e. how are they created, how do they function, what are their statutory limitations)? • What are the trends in municipal government? Lower vs. upper tier • What is the role of the Province, Conservation Authorities, School Boards, and Utilities?
Brick by Brick: Consensus Building	How to build consensus among staff, politicians, the public, and proponents	• What case studies exist in Ontario that showcase successful consensus building? • Does consensus lead to good planning? • How do you balance consensus building and the need for efficiency?