

Parkland County, AB

Digitizing workflows, transparency, and public participation
in one solution



Parkland County, Alberta, needed an all-in-one solution to streamline their legislative workflow, promote transparency, and empower citizen engagement. The 33,000 person county, made up of cities, towns, villages, summer villages, and hamlets, achieved a savings of nearly \$80,000 annually by implementing the Granicus platform and solutions.

After years of searching for a software solution to automate their entire legislative process, the staff of Parkland knew exactly what they were looking for. Features that topped their priority list included an end-to-end solution with seamless integration and hands-on customer training and support. After expending time and energy on disconnected digital solutions from multiple vendors, Parkland found that as much if not more manual support was needed to produce their agendas and minutes as with their traditional methods.

“It’s a very easy-to-use, simple system.”

- Doug Tymchyshyn,
Legislative & Administrative Services Manager

Success Highlights

- Total annual savings of \$79,500
- Saving \$40,500 in photocopy and paper reductions
- Reduced staff agenda preparation and distribution time by 25%, saving \$39,000 per year
- Expanded use of iLegislate across several meeting bodies

Fast Facts

Agency Type: County

Population: 30,568

Solutions:

Granicus Platform
Government Transparency Suite
Meeting Efficiency Suite
Legislative Management Suite
Citizen Participation Suite

Active Since: 2012

Parkland Goals Met:

- Create a paperless meeting agenda and minutes process
- Easy agenda item creation and approval
- Increase public transparency through live streaming and archived public meeting
- Establish a management system for all historical agenda data
- Increase employee productivity
- Create a convenient engagement portal

“Something that has been a huge success – and I’ll tell you my politicians absolutely love it – is iLegislate. They can’t stop raving about the functionality... it really helps them to be prepared, and move through their meetings very successfully.”

- Doug Tymchyshyn
Legislative & Administrative Services Manager

Digitizing Workflows

With Granicus, Parkland found a solution that could help facilitate an efficient public meeting process. Prior to choosing Granicus, the Parkland Clerk staff found deadlines set for agenda delivery difficult to meet even with regular staff overtime. Granicus Legislative Management with Legistar allowed Parkland to automate its workflow. With Granicus, Parkland found that employees could easily create individual agenda items to push through an automated approval process. **Parkland was able to reduce staff time spent on agenda preparation and distribution by as much as 25%.**

Parkland also began using iLegislate when Doug Tymchyshyn, the Legislative & Administrative Services Manager, decided council members would be better prepared for meeting by utilizing iPads with iLegislate rather than the traditional laptops. iLegislate’s ability to provide quick, easy and convenient access to meeting agendas while allowing elected members to bookmark and annotate items became so popular that Parkland has since expanded the use of iLegislate to its committees, boards, and commissions. The move to iLegislate reduced the council members’ reliance on paper agenda packets, allowing for huge savings in both photocopy and paper costs.

Cost Savings

Photocopy reduction	\$38,500
Paper cost reduction	\$2,000
Staff time (25% time savings)	\$39,000
Total annual savings:	\$79,500

Transparency

Another goal Parkland was able to achieve was to live stream and archive meeting videos, increasing transparency for its citizens. Doug finds that with the Granicus Transparency Suite he is able to have the meeting video posted just a short thirty minutes after the meeting ends. Parkland's use of Granicus' Legistar®, an end-to-end legislative workflow system, creates a powerful online legislative research center. Combining meeting video, agenda packets, and minutes into an easily searchable resource, Legistar allows Parkland's citizens to quickly become informed on past and present legislation by using key words and meta-data filters.

Public Participation

After gaining confidence in their new legislative solution, Parkland identified the need to enhance and increase community collaboration. Granicus' Citizen Participation tool SpeakUp is being implemented to further foster transparency in the decision making process and improve idea generation. Although SpeakUp is a relatively new addition to Parkland's platform, Doug is confident that adding this tool to Parkland's network of Granicus solutions will have far reaching benefits to the county as a whole.

