



Financial Advisory Panel

Common measurement is a key ingredient of the OMBI initiative. Finance representatives ensure that costs are measured in a consistent manner. This is particularly important for “back office” support costs that are allocated, as well as for the attribution of capital and asset management costs. The OMBI Financial Advisory Panel (formerly known as the OMBI Treasurers Group) reports to the OMBI Management Committee but also consults with and communicates progress to the (STAR) Single-Tier and Regional Treasurer’s Group.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Financial Advisory Panel

- Establishing common costing methodologies for use by all municipalities
- Each FAP member is to work with their Municipal Champion/Lead (for the two to three Expert Panels each municipality is responsible for facilitating) to establish technical definitions of all costing measures that specifies FIR lines and columns (if applicable), descriptions of those lines and columns and a listing of those activities to be included and those that should be excluded
- In consultation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), have a representative of the FAP sit as a member of the MPMP Advisory Committee (A member of the OMBI Management Committee would also sit on this Advisory Committee)
- Provide advice to MMAH on planned short-term and long-term changes to the FIR and costing methodologies used in calculating performance measures (Note a staff member of MMAH sits on FAP)
- Review the Financial Information Return (FIR) and financial results for efficiency measures in each service area for anomalies between municipalities
- Review results of the annual OMBI data collection process and financial measures prior to finalization of the results and provide feedback to their respective Municipal Champion and the Management Committee
- Assess impact in each municipality on changes to the grouping or splitting of GL accounts that may be necessary to conform with common program mapping (specific services and activities to be included in OMBI measures) established for each OMBI Expert Panel
- Assist in the financial analysis or other projects requested by Expert Panels / Management Committee
- Work on other financial issues (i.e., TCA implementation) that have common interest across the OMBI partners



Roles and Responsibilities of the Financial Advisory Panel Members within their Municipality

Work in concert with the Municipal Champion in each municipality in executing the annual data collection process including and in particular co-ordination of the process for the provision of financial data and supporting information which includes:

- Liaising with financial staff in divisions/departments who are involved in determining the financial components of OMBI measures
- Ensuring adherence in their municipality to costing protocols approved by the OMBI Financial Advisory Panel such as application of the indirect cost allocation model, the inclusion of an appropriate share of the change in unfunded liabilities and incorporating the accounting for Tangible Capital Assets.
- Ensuring in each municipality (regardless of if this work is done within the Finance Department or by financial staff in other departments/divisions) that the appropriate GL accounts from their administrative structure are appropriately grouped/split in order to derive the direct cost component for applicable OMBI measures in accordance with the OMBI technical definitions established for each measure (which activities are to be included or excluded from costs)
- Integration of financial and non-financial data
- Reviewing the results of financial measures in their municipality for unusual variances between years and identifying the reasons for those variances
- Communicating information to the Municipal Champion and experts that explains the OMBI costing methodology, how the financial components of their OMBI measures were derived and how this differs from what the experts are used to seeing in their GL