

Clerk's Department

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Corporate Services Department
Legislative Services Division

Date & October 23, 2023
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Copies To:

Take Appropriate Action File

File: C00.2023

October 18, 2023

Premier of Ontario Legislative Building Queens Park Toronto ON M7A 1A4

Sent by Email

RE: Municipal Codes of Conduct

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview, at its meeting held on October 16, 2023, passed a resolution supporting the correspondence regarding Municipal Codes of Conduct.

Notes/Comments:

Moved by Councillor Broderick, Seconded by Councillor Walker, Whereas all Ontarians deserve and expect a safe and respectful workplace;

Whereas, municipal governments, as the democratic institutions most directly engaged with Ontarians need respectful discourse;

Whereas several incidents in recent years of disrespectful behaviour and workplace harassment have occurred amongst members of municipal councils;

Whereas these incidents seriously and negatively affect the people involved and lower public perceptions of local governments;

Whereas municipal Codes of Conduct are helpful tools to set expectations of council member behaviour;

Whereas municipal governments do not have the necessary tools to adequately enforce compliance with municipal Codes of Conduct;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Township of Clearview supports the call of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation

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to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them in consultation with municipal governments;

Also, Be It Resolved that the legislation encompass the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's recommendations for:

- Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment;
- Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario;
- Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province;
- Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner;
- Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office;

And that the above resolution be circulated to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario Municipalities.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Sasha Helmkay-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC

Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

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cc: Hon. Paul Calandra, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson Ontario Municipalities