


Sent by Email

October 30, 2024

The Honourable Premier Doug Ford  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Room 281  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

 Corporate Services Department <b>Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	October 31, 2024 3:27 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Subject: Additional Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on October 28, 2024 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering, on October 23, 2023, through Resolution #310/23, adopted a motion calling on the Government of Ontario to strengthen municipal codes of conduct, and later endorsed correspondence from the Town of Aurora asking the same;

And Whereas, in August 2024, Minister Paul Calandra, Municipal Affairs and Housing, committed to adopting and implementing then-forthcoming recommendations from Commissioner Wake, the province's integrity commissioner, whose report was recently released;

And Whereas, the current tabled legislation, Bill 207, Municipal Accountability and Integrity Act, 2024, contains elements consistent with the City's request to the Province;

And Whereas, municipal governments do not have the necessary tools to adequately enforce compliance with municipal Codes of Conduct and support appropriate accountability when it comes to perpetrating violence and harassment in the workplace;

And Whereas, other levels of government, such as the Board of Trustees, under the *Education Act*, have different sanctions that could be effectively applied in the context of municipally elected officials;

And Whereas, the fundamental underlying principle of broadening diversity, equity and inclusion in politics rests on the assumption the workplace is safe;

And Whereas, legislated changes are needed to require councillors to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies, and violations of those policies should allow for a process of removal from office of an elected official for substantiated cases of egregious violence or harassment, as well as restricting officials whose seat has been vacated from seeking immediate, subsequent re-election;

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering:

1. Supports the call of Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Ontario Municipal Administrators Association, Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), Ontario Big City Mayors, and over 208 municipalities and counting, for the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them in consultation with municipal governments;
2. Requests that in addition to the legislated changes previously requested, that the following matters be considered for both the *Municipal Act* and the *City of Toronto Act*:
  - Implementation of sanctions similar to those in Section 218.3 of the *Education Act*, Breach of Code of Conduct; and,
  - Implementations similar to those in the *Education Act* under O. Reg. 312/24: Members of School Boards - Code of Conduct;
  - The establishment of a Board of Integrity Commissioners (IC);
  - Allowing a Commissioner of the Board of ICs, to make an application for judicial review to vacate a member's seat and impose prescribed penalties if the Commissioner is of the opinion that the member has made certain contraventions of the code of conduct;
  - Provisions to allow the Commissioner to apply to a judge of the Superior Court for confirmation of certain determinations;
  - Provisions to prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office;
3. Requests that in the event the Government cannot, for whatever reason, introduce its own legislation, that the Government support and prioritize Bill 207, Municipal Accountability and Integrity Act, 2024; and,
4. That this resolution, along with a copy of Resolution #310/23, be circulated to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General, The

Honourable Charmaine A. Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, all Durham MPPs, the Regional Municipality of Durham, all lower tier Durham municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

A copy of a letter regarding Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement dated October 31, 2023 (Resolution #310/23) has been attached for your reference.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel  
City Clerk

SC:am

Encl.

Copy: The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General  
The Honourable Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity  
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP Pickering-Uxbridge  
The Honourable Todd McCarthy, MPP Durham  
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby  
Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa  
Patrice Barnes, MPP Ajax  
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock  
Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, Region of Durham  
Jaclyn Grossi, Municipal Clerk, Town of Ajax  
June Gallagher, Municipal Clerk, Municipality of Clarington  
Chris Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby  
Fernando Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock  
Debbie Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge  
Mary Medeiros, City Clerk, City of Oshawa  
Ralph Walton Interim, City Clerk, Township of Scugog  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Chief Administrative Officer

Sent by Email

October 31, 2023

The Honourable Premier Doug Ford  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Room 281  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Subject: Re: Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement  
File: A-1400

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The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on October 23, 2023 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, all Ontarians deserve and expect a safe and respectful workplace;

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

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

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

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

And 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 Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering:

1. Supports the call of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them in consultation with municipal governments; and,
2. That the legislation encompass the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's recommendations for:

- a) Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment;
  - b) Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario;
  - c) Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province;
  - d) 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; and,
  - e) Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office.
3. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Premier, Durham MPP's, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, The Regional Municipality of Durham, and lower-tier Durham Municipalities.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2047.

Yours truly,



Carol Redmond  
(Acting) Deputy Clerk

CR:am

Copy: The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
The Honourable Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity;  
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Pickering – Uxbridge;  
The Honourable Todd McCarthy, MPP, Durham;  
Patrice Barnes, MPP, Ajax;  
Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby;  
Jennifer French, MPP, Oshawa;  
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock;  
Alexander Harras Regional Clerk, Director of Legislative Services, Region of Durham;

Nicole Cooper, Director of Legislative & Information Services, Town of Ajax;  
June Gallagher, Municipal Clerk, Municipality of Clarington;  
Chris Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby;  
Fernando Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock;  
Debbie Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge;  
Mary Medeiros, City Clerk, City of Oshawa;  
Ralph Walton, Interim City Clerk, Township of Scugog;  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario;  
Chief Administrative Officer