



**MATACHEWAN**

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August 16, 2023

**RESOLUTION**

**Resolution # 2023-252**

**Agenda Item # 8.2 Regular Council Meeting**

**Moved By :** Emily Stewart

**Seconded By :** Dianne Gilbert

**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 Council of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan 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;

**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.

**WHEREAS**, this legislation be prioritized for the fall of 2023 given the urgency of this issue; and

**FURTHERMORE**, this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, MPP Fedeli, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, AMO and all municipalities.

**Carried**

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Mike Young  
Deputy Mayor

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Cheryl Swanson  
Clerk

**COPY**  
*Signatures on file*