



Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

September 15, 2023

RE 6.19 Municipality of Grey Highlands – Municipal Codes of Conduct

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on August 16, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-247:

Moved by Councillor Hurst and
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

That the Consent Agenda item 6.19 listed for AUGUST 16, 2023 Council meeting be received for information; and

Whereas Township of Puslinch Council supports the resolution from the Municipality of Grey Highlands regarding legislation to strengthen Municipal Code of Conducts to account for workplace safety and harassment; and

That Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly to AMO.

Therefore, the Township of Puslinch, passes this resolution regarding the Municipal Code of Conduct

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; 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 Municipality of Grey Highlands 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.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Courtenay Hoytfox
Municipal Clerk

June 21, 2023

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Sent via email

To whom it may concern:

Re: 2023-496

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the June 21, 2023 meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

2023-496

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; 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 Municipality of Grey Highlands 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**

The Municipality of Grey Highlands

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- **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.**
- CARRIED.**

If you require anything further, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



Amanda Fines-VanAlstine
Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy-Clerk
Municipality of Grey Highlands

cc. Office of the Premier of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities