

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Regional Council

From: Wayne Emmerson
Regional Chairman and CEO

Date: February 27, 2019

Re: Council Code of Conduct

The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate the Integrity Commissioner's response to the Code of Conduct discussion from the January 31, 2019 Council meeting and any subsequent feedback they received from Members. I also wanted to remind Members of the previous discussions around the Code of Conduct and provide some background material on the Integrity Commissioner.

The Municipal Act requires that all municipalities have a council code of conduct in place by March 1, 2019 and sets out minimum requirements

Municipal Act amendments in 2017 required that all municipalities adopt a council code of conduct and retain an Integrity Commissioner. Additionally, the Act sets out the minimum requirements for a council code of conduct. Each code should include the following provisions:

1. Gifts, benefits and hospitality
2. Respectful conduct, including conduct toward officers and employees of the municipality or the local board, as the case may be
3. Confidential information
4. Use of property of the municipality or of the local board, as the case may be

Council first considered a Code of Conduct in April 2018

On [April 19, 2018](#), Council considered a draft code of conduct developed by staff. The draft code, which was designed to mirror existing local codes of conduct as closely as possible, included provisions around the following topics:

1. Statement of Principles
2. Conduct at meetings
3. Staff and Council Relations
4. Use of Regional Property
5. Gifts and Benefits
6. Confidentiality
7. Discrimination and Harassment
8. Improper Use of Influence
9. Conflicts of Interest
10. Election Activity

At the meeting, Council referred the development of a Code of Conduct to the future Integrity Commissioner and provided authority to staff to select and appoint a suitable candidate based on skills and qualifications criteria approved by Council.

Principles Integrity was appointed as Integrity Commissioner

Following a competitive Request for Proposal process involving a technical submission and an interview, Principles Integrity was selected and appointed as integrity Commissioner. Council was informed of the appointment at its [December 13, 2018](#) meeting.

Principles Integrity is a partnership comprising Jeffrey Abrams and Janice Atwood-Petkovski. Mr. Abrams is a former municipal lawyer and clerk and Ms. Atwood-Petkovski is a former municipal lawyer. Their municipal experience spans Metropolitan Toronto, the City of Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton, Brampton, York Region and Vaughan.

As Integrity Commissioner, Principles Integrity serves over 30 municipalities including Peel Region, Halton Region, Mississauga and Kingston. Within York Region, they serve the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Since being appointed the Integrity Commissioner has worked with Council to develop a Code of Conduct

On January 17, 2019, Principles Integrity led an Education Session with Committee of the Whole to provide an overview of the Integrity Commissioner's role and mandate.

On [January 31, 2019](#), the Integrity Commissioner presented a draft Code of Conduct for consideration. Council referred the Code back to the Integrity Commissioner to propose changes to the Code based on feedback received from Council Members and for the Integrity Commissioner to report back to this meeting of Council.

The attached correspondence from the Integrity Commissioner reflects responses to specific questions and comments and includes suggested amendments to the draft code. Also attached is the draft Code of Conduct as presented to Council in January.

Wayne Emmerson
Regional Chair and CEO

Attachments (2)
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