**Amendments to Code of Conduct -
Hosting Social Media Provisions**

C. Definitions

Blocking means to completely deny a user access to one or more of a Member's social media accounts

Disinformation means the deliberate creation and/or sharing of false information in order to mislead

Muting means editing a user out of one or more of a Member's Social Media accounts while still allowing that user to view and participate in discussion. However, that user's activity is not visible in the Member's social media feed.

Social Media means freely accessible, third-party hosted, interactive Internet technologies used to produce, post and interact through text, images, video, and audio to inform, share, promote, collaborate or network. A non-exhaustive list of examples of social media include: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, TikTok and LinkedIn.

> **Open Social Media** is **Social Media** that is freely accessible to any user, without the requirement to register or seek permission from the Social Media site's host or administrator

Spamming means the unsolicited or repetitive posting of unwanted content on social media

Trolling means deliberate attempts to instigate conflict, hostility or arguments on social media

D. Guiding Principles

D.10 USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Members of Council can interact on Social Media with a diverse group of colleagues, constituents, and citizens at large just as they can in their physical workspaces and elsewhere. As administrators of their accounts, Members of Council should treat Social Media accounts as extensions of their offices. Members of Council should ensure that such accounts promote healthy discussion and debate and are free from discrimination and harassment. Members of Council must be mindful of this requirement when considering their own Social Media posts as well as any posts from other users that appear on the Member's social media page.

Open Social Media accounts allow any user of a Social Media platform to follow or join a conversation without seeking permission from a host or administrator. Open Social Media sites have been likened to a physical 'town square', where everyone has free access.   Certain misbehaviours are necessarily constrained in a town square, but opinions can be freely shared within reasonable limits.

Similarly, on an Open Social Media site anyone may participate in an online conversation, regardless of their opinion, so long as they adhere to reasonable limitations that ensure that a conversation is on topic, civil, and not cluttered with extraneous postings.

To protect themselves and other users on Social Media, Members of Council may need to modify a user's access. Some valid reasons for doing so include, but are not limited to:
- Posting illegal content
- Posting content that incites hatred, discrimination or is otherwise abusive
- Posting disinformation
- Trolling
- Spamming
- Harassment
- Posting off-topic information

A user's access can be modified in several ways, including removing individual posts, or muting or blocking a user. In cases where such actions are required, Members of Council should attempt to preserve as much of a user's access to information and expression as possible.

Members of Council may approach the Integrity Commissioner for advice prior to blocking, or otherwise limiting, another user's participation.

If a Member deems it appropriate to completely block another user from their Social Media page, the Member shall maintain a record of the following information in the following circumstances:

In All Circumstances:
- Identify who was blocked
- When the block was implemented
On Open Social Media Sites:
- When and if it will be lifted
- Reasons for implementing the block, including screenshots or other records of offending posts where possible
- Mitigating steps, if any, that were taken to resolve the issues prior to implementing the block (e.g., issued a warning, reported user to platform administrator, consulted Integrity Commissioner)
Except in the case of Spamming and Off-Topic Information:
- Confirmation that the reasons for implementing the block were communicated to the offending social media user

In the event of a complaint from a blocked user, the Integrity Commissioner will review this information to help formulate their findings.

Members are encouraged to adopt a version of these guidelines for their restricted access Social Media pages (pages which require membership, registration or approval before a user may join the discussion).

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