



Motion on Strengthening Municipal Codes of Conduct in Ontario

August 20, 2023

Whereas all Ontarians, including both municipal staff and elected members of council, deserve a safe and respectful workplace free from harassment and bullying; and

Whereas the *Municipal Act, 2001*, prescribes that municipalities shall have codes of conduct for council and local boards; and

Whereas municipalities and municipal integrity commissioners currently lack the tools to enforce codes of conduct; and

Whereas there are numerous examples of repeated contraventions of codes of conduct, bullying and harassment across the municipal sector; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has recently consulted and engaged with municipalities across the province on strengthening codes of conduct;

Therefore be it resolved that the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) and Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM):

- Reaffirm their past support (and the support of other bodies such as AMO) for strengthening municipal codes of conduct;
- Call on the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen codes of conduct for Ontario's municipalities; and

That the proposed legislation includes administrative penalties, increased training, strengthened tools for integrity commissioners, and the ability for municipalities to apply for judicial removal of sitting members if advised by their integrity commissioner.