

# Code of Conduct

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THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN



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## PREAMBLE

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- 1.1 Elected officials have important obligations and responsibilities to those they represent, serve, and interact with as they carry out the roles and duties of their office. The purpose and intent of this Code of Conduct is:
- a) To establish guidelines for ethical conduct required of Members;
  - b) To establish guidelines to encourage and ensure interpersonal conduct, communications and interactions is consistent with legal requirements (i.e. Occupational Health and Safety Act, Ontario Human Rights Code); and
  - c) To provide mechanisms to ensure accountability and compliance with the required ethical and interpersonal conduct standards of this Code of Conduct.

# DEFINITIONS

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- 2.1 **'Censure'** means an official expression of disapproval or condemnation.
- 2.2 **'CAO/Clerk'** shall mean an Employee authorized to act as the Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk of the Municipality.
- 2.3 **'Closed Meeting'** shall mean a meeting, or part of a meeting, of Council not open to the public in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.
- 2.4 **'Committee'** shall mean an Advisory Board or Committee established by Council.
- 2.5 **'Complaint'** shall mean an alleged violation of this Code
- 2.6 **'Confidential Information'** includes information in the possession of the Municipality that the Municipality is prohibited from disclosing under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990 the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004, and other applicable legislation. Confidential Information also means any information of a personal nature to municipal employees or clients, or information that is not available to the public and that, if disclosed, could result in loss or damage to the Municipality, or could give the person to whom it is disclosed an advantage. Confidential Information includes items disclosed or discussed at closed sessions of Council and Committee meetings.
- 2.7 **'Council'** shall mean the elected officials who constitute Municipal Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin.
- 2.8 **'Employee'** shall mean a person employed by the Municipality, including those employed on personal service contracts and volunteers. It does not include members of Council.
- 2.9 **'Gift'** includes any cash or monetary equivalent fee, object of value, service, forbearance, preferential treatment, or personal benefit received from a third party.
- 2.10 **'Good Faith'** shall mean accordance with standards of honesty, trust and sincerity, as practiced and understood within the Elgin County community.
- 2.11 **'Integrity Commissioner'** shall mean a person appointed by Council to provide independent and consistent complaint investigation and resolution respecting the application of the Code of Conduct.
- 2.12 **'Immediate Relative'** shall mean a parent, child, sister, brother, sister-in-law, brother in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, as well as step-relationships.



- 2.13 **'Lobby'** shall mean to communicate with a member outside of a public process about matters of interest or benefit to the lobbyist and their client business organization. Communication may be about a by-law or resolution on any matter that requires a decision by Council, a local board, or delegated decision-maker and includes matters regarding policies or programs, the purchase of goods and services and the awarding of contracts, applications for a service grant, planning approval, or other licence.
- 2.14 **'Media'** includes any entity such as radio, television, newspaper, magazine, websites, blogs, social media, twitter feeds or other vehicles for the public dissemination of information.
- 2.15 **'Member'** means any member of Council, and includes the Mayor and any member of the public appointed to a Committee.
- 2.16 **'Meeting'** shall mean any regular, special or other meeting of Council.
- 2.17 **'Pecuniary Interest'** shall mean an interest that has a direct or indirect financial impact or as defined under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, as amended.
- 2.18 **'Spouse'** shall mean the person to whom a Member is married or with whom the Member is living in a conjugal relationship.



# APPLICATION

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- 3.1 This Code of Conduct applies to the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and all Members of Council and members of the public appointed to Committees.

## RELATED ACTS

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- 4.1 A Member's conduct and behavior in terms of ethics and interpersonal conduct and communications are regulated by legislative acts, including but not limited to:
- a) Criminal Code of Canada;
  - b) Human Rights Code;
  - c) Municipal Act;
  - d) Municipal Conflict of Interest Act;
  - e) Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;
  - f) Municipal Elections Act;
  - g) Personal Health Information Protection Act;
  - h) The Public Inquiry Act; and,
  - i) The Occupational Health and Safety Act

## GENERAL DUTIES

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- 5.1 It shall be the duty of all Members to abide by all applicable legislation, policies and procedures pertaining to their position as a Member.
- 5.2 Members shall at all times serve and be seen to serve their constituents in a conscientious and diligent manner.
- 5.3 Members will conduct their dealings with each other in ways that maintain public confidence in the position to which they have been elected or appointed. Members will be open and honest, focus on issues rather than personalities, and avoid aggressive, offensive, or abusive conduct.
- 5.4 Members shall accurately and adequately communicate the attitudes and decisions of the Council even if they disagree with Council's decision, in order to foster respect for the decision making processes of Council.
- 5.5 Members shall conduct themselves at all Council and Committee Meetings with decorum, in accordance with the Municipality of Central Elgin's Procedural by-law.

- 5.6 In accordance with the Municipal Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, every Member shall exercise their power and discharge their official duties in accordance with the following principles:
- a) Seek to advance the common good of the Municipality;
  - b) Exercise care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in similar circumstances;
  - c) Exercise their powers only for the purposes for which they were intended; and,
  - d) Truly, faithfully and impartially exercise their office to the best of their knowledge and ability.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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- 6.1 Members have strict obligations to avoid conflicts of interest by taking the following steps whenever a Member has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter that is before Council in a meeting where the member is present:
- a) disclose the general nature of the Member's interest prior to any consideration of the matter in the meeting;
  - b) refrain from participating in the discussion of the matter or in any vote on the matter; and,
  - c) refrain from attempting to influence the voting on the matter or question, before, during or after the meeting.
- 6.2 All members have important ethical and statutory obligations to adhere to the steps outlined above to ensure avoidance of any conflict of interest in connection with their Member's office. Each Member must declare the conflict of interest and general nature thereof verbally at the beginning of each meeting, and provide the Clerk with the signed declaration.
- 6.3 While the Integrity Commissioner may provide general interpretation of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, it is expected that members seek independent legal advice on specific questions of individual compliance with the Act.
- 6.4 Members shall be responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. If, upon review by the Integrity Commissioner, a complaint is deemed to be a matter covered by the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, the Integrity Commissioner shall advise the complainant, with an explanation, in writing, and an investigation may be conducted in accordance with powers and duties of Integrity Commissioner.



# GIFTS & PARTICIPATION AT EVENTS

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- 7.1 No Member shall solicit or accept any gift, or accept or receive a fee, advance, cash or personal benefit that is directly or indirectly connected with his or her duties of office. For the purposes of this provision, any gift provided to a Member's child, parent or spouse with the Member's knowledge shall be deemed to be a gift accepted by that Member;
- 7.2 The Municipality recognizes that moderate hospitality and participation in charitable non-profit fundraising and business events is an accepted facet of community participation and business relationships. Accordingly, the following types of gifts are recognized as exceptions to the prohibition in Section 7.1:
- a) gifts that are received as an incident of protocol or social obligation that normally and reasonably accompany the responsibilities of the office;
  - b) token gifts such as souvenirs, mementoes and commemorative gifts that are given in recognition of service on a committee for speaking at an event or representing the Municipality at an event;
  - c) communications to the offices of a Member including subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals;
  - d) compensation authorized by law;
  - e) political contributions that are offered accepted and reported in accordance with applicable law;
  - f) services provided without compensation by persons volunteering their time;



- g) gifts of admission to dinner, charity fundraisers, banquets, receptions, ceremonies, cultural events, sporting events, business galas, political events and similar events if the Member's attendance serves a legitimate municipal purpose; and
- h) reasonable payment for participation in or organizing any reception, dinner, gala, golf tournament, or similar event to support charitable causes or a political fundraising event and food, lodging, transportation or entertainment from a not for profit non-government organization.

7.3 Within 30 days of receipt of any gift described in Section 7.2, Members shall file a disclosure statement with the Integrity Commissioner for any gift that exceeds \$200 in value. If the value of any gift described in Section 7.2 exceeds \$500 or if the total value of such gifts received from any one source during one calendar year exceeds \$1,000, the Member shall file a disclosure statement with the Integrity Commissioner within 30 days of the receipt of the gift. Every disclosure statement shall indicate:

- a) the nature of the gift;
- b) its source and date of receipt;
- c) the circumstances under which it was received; and
- d) its estimated value.

7.4 Every disclosure statement to the Integrity Commissioner and as anticipated in 7.3 above shall be a matter of public record.

7.5 The Integrity Commissioner shall report to Council annually on all gifts received by Members that are disclosed in accordance with Section 7.2).

7.6 The Integrity Commissioner shall examine every disclosure statement filed with them to ascertain whether the receipt of the gift might in their opinion create a conflict between a private interest and the public duties of the Member.

7.7 If the Integrity Commissioner makes a preliminary determination of a conflict the Member shall be asked to justify receipt of the gift.

7.8 If the Integrity Commissioner determines that receipt of the gift was prohibited, they shall report the findings to Council.



## INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC, OTHER MEMBERS & STAFF

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- 8.1 Members have a duty to treat members of the public, each other, and staff with respect and dignity and without abuse, bullying or intimidation;
- 8.2 Members have a duty to ensure that the Municipality's work environment is safe and free from discrimination and harassment;
- 8.3 Members are to recognize that Employees serve Council, and work for the Municipality under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer. Council directs Employees through its decisions as recorded in the minutes and resolutions of Council. The role of Employees is to provide advice and services that are based on political neutrality, objectivity, and professional judgement, which may not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of any single Member. Members have no individual capacity to direct Employees to perform specific functions.
- 8.4 Inquiries of Employees from Members should be directed to the Chief Administrative Officer, or the appropriate Director.
- 8.5 No Member shall compel Employees to engage in partisan political activities or be subjected to threats, discipline, or discrimination for refusing to engage in any such activity.
- 8.6 Members shall show respect for the professional capacities of Municipal Employees. Some Employees have professional credentials, which create separate legal and ethical obligations for those Employees. Members shall refrain from any conduct which may deter, interfere, or unduly influence Employees in such a manner as to result in them violating their professional, legal, or ethical obligations.
- 8.7 Certain Employees hold positions within the administration of justice. Members shall refrain from making requests or statements or otherwise taking action which may be construed as an attempt to influence the independence of staff working within the administration of justice.

# INPROPER USE OF INFLUENCE

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- 9.1 No Member shall use their office to seek to influence any decision made, or to be made, by Council to the Member's private advantage or to the advantage of another person.
- 9.2 No Member shall use their office to seek to influence or interfere with the administration or enforcement of the municipal regulatory by-laws or other laws enforced by the Municipality. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is recognized that Members of Council may in good faith raise the concerns of residents with municipal employees for the purpose of determining if those concerns can be resolved, having due regard for the public interest in fair and impartial by-law enforcement.
- 9.3 All applicants for municipal positions shall have an equal opportunity to obtain such employment. No Member shall use their office to seek to influence the hiring of specific individuals for any position within the Municipality.
- 9.4 Nothing in this Section prohibits a Member from providing a reference for an applicant for any position within the Municipality, or offering their opinions, and voting on any decision to hire a Chief Administrative Officer.
- 9.5 No Member shall support any cause or third party using the Municipality's corporate logo or letterhead in any communication intended to solicit funds without a vote or resolution of Council.

# CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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- 10.1 Members shall hold in strict confidence all Confidential Information concerning matters dealt with in-camera. No Member shall release, make public, or in any way divulge any such Confidential Information or any aspect of the in-camera deliberations, unless expressly authorized by Council or by-law.
- 10.2 No Member shall release, make public or in any way divulge any such Confidential Information acquired by virtue of their office unless expressly authorized by Council or by-law. The capacity to release Confidential Information can only be made by a majority of Council, and no individual member of Council has authority to waive this privilege.
- 10.3 No Member shall use information gained in the execution of their office that is not available to the general public for any purpose other than their official duties.

- 10.4 No Member shall access or attempt to gain access to Confidential Information in the custody of the Municipality, except to the extent necessary for the performance of their duties as a Member and not prohibited by this Code or any other statute, by-law or policy.
- 10.5 Members are only entitled to Confidential Information in the possession of the Municipality that is relevant to matters before the Council or Committee. Beyond this entitlement, Members have the same level of access to information as does any other citizen.

## COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA RELATIONS

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- 11.1 In order to foster respect for the decision making process of Council, Members shall fairly and accurately communicate the decisions of Council, even if they disagree with a majority decision of Council, and/or voted in the minority. Members may publicly express disagreement with a decision, but are to do so in a respectful manner.
- 11.2 In communications with the media, Members shall not indicate, implicitly or explicitly, that they speak on behalf of Council, unless they have been authorized to do so by Council.
- 11.3 Members shall refrain from making disparaging remarks about other Members, members of the public, Employees or Council's process and decisions.





# MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

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- 12.1 Members of Council are required to comply with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
- 12.2 No Member shall use Municipal property, including the logo, for any election campaign or campaign related activities.
- 12.3 No Member shall undertake campaign related activities on municipally owned lands, with the exception of the permissible use of campaign signs along road allowances, and in compliance with any local sign by-laws, as applicable.
- 12.4 No Member shall use the services of Employees in work for their election during hours in which those Employees are being paid by the Municipality. The participation of staff with respect to municipal elections is generally discouraged.

# CONDUCT OF FORMER MEMBERS

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- 13.1 The Municipality shall not hire or award any contract to any former Member for a period of 12 months from the date the former Member ceased to hold office, except where the former Member is the successful bidder through a quote or tender consistent with municipal policies.
- 13.2 A former Member may not lobby the Municipality or any Member for a period of 12 months from the date the former Member ceased to hold office.

# USE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

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- 14.1 Members may only use Municipal property, including land, facilities, equipment, supplies, services, staff or other resources (for example, Municipally owned materials, computers, networks, websites) for activities directly connected with the discharge of their official Municipal duties or, as appropriate, local municipal duties.
- 14.2 Occasional or incidental personal use of Municipal computers, phones, or similar devices and communication systems is acceptable, subject to the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act. Such use may also be subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- 14.3 No Member shall obtain financial gain from the use or sale of municipally developed intellectual property including inventions, cultural materials, computer programs, technical innovations, or other items capable of being patented, or copyrighted, as all such property remains exclusively that of the Municipality.

# NEPOTISM

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- 15.1 No Member shall attempt to influence the hiring or promotion of a Spouse or Immediate Relative.
- 15.2 No Member shall make any decision or participate in the process to hire, transfer, promote, demote, discipline, or terminate a Spouse or Immediate Relative.
- 15.3 If a Spouse or Immediate Relative of a Member is an applicant for employment with the Municipality or candidate for promotion or transfer, the Spouse or Immediate Relative will proceed through the usual selection process with no special consideration.
- 15.4 No Member shall place themselves in a position where they could have influence over their Spouse or Immediate Relative's employment.
- 15.5 No Member shall attempt to use a Spouse or Immediate Relative relationship for financial or other gain.

# OBSTRUCTION OF INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

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- 16.1 No Member shall obstruct the Integrity Commissioner in the carrying out of their responsibilities.
- 16.2 It is a violation of this Code to obstruct any staff member acting under the instruction of the Integrity Commissioner in applying or furthering the objectives or requirements of this Code, in attempting to gather information or data, or in the general conduct of duties with respect to a Code of Conduct investigation.
- 16.3 Examples of obstruction under sections 16.1 or 16.2 include the destruction of documents, the erasure of electronic documents, withholding or concealing the existence of documents, and refusal to respond to inquiries from the Integrity Commissioner within 15 days of receipt of same.

# REPRISALS

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- 17.1 No Member shall seek any reprisal or threaten any reprisal against a complainant or any other person for providing relevant information to the Integrity Commissioner in the course of inquiry pursuant to a complaint.

# INTERPERSONAL CONDUCT & COMMUNICATIONS

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- 18.1 Members have important legal responsibilities and accountabilities in connection with the tone and substance of interpersonal interactions, conduct, or communications pursued in the context of carrying out their role as Councillor.
- 18.2 The purpose of this section of the Code of Conduct and the related policies is to ensure that Members governed by this Code of Conduct understand and comply with standards of conduct required at law in terms of their interpersonal interactions, communications and conduct.
- 18.3 The Municipality and Members, as agents of the Municipality share important obligations for ensuring compliance with required standards of interpersonal conduct and interactions. A failure to adhere to the required Standards of Conduct can expose both the Municipality and individual Members to potential liabilities.
- 18.4 **Human Rights Guarantees: The Obligation to Treat Every Person with Dignity, Understanding and Respect and Avoid Harassment and Discrimination**
- The Ontario Human Rights Code extends equality rights guarantees in the context of employment and the delivery of services. A Municipal Government is both an employer and service provider.
- As a result, the interactions and conduct of Members governed by this Code of Conduct generally occur in the context of providing services or interacting with employees.
- In connection with such interactions, Members have a legal obligation to ensure adherence to equality rights guarantees. Members have an obligation to ensure that all individuals dealt with are treated with dignity and respect, and not exposed to harassment or discrimination.
- 18.5 Member obligations extend to anyone you deal with in the context of employment or delivery of services; including but not necessarily limited to the following: other Members of Council, Committee Members, Local Board Members, Corporate Employees, individuals providing services, contractors, students, the public.



# COMPLIANCE/ ACCOUNTABILITY/ ENFORCEMENT

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- 19.1 The Municipality has important obligations and interests in ensuring compliance with the ethical and interpersonal conduct standards required of Members by this Code of Conduct.
- 19.2 The Municipality has an interest and obligation to respond to all allegations, complaints or incidents of alleged conduct inconsistent with the standards outlined in this Code of Conduct in a manner consistent with the interests and legal obligations of the Municipality.
- 19.3 The Municipality recognizes that the Municipality and the Members have a mutual interest in providing and encouraging access to compliance/enforcement mechanisms in connection with the conduct required by this Code that deliver objective, independent, skilled and efficient determinations in connection with alleged misconduct by any Member.
- 19.4 The Municipality shall appoint an Integrity Commissioner pursuant to Section 223.3 (1) of the Municipal Act to inquire into and determine any alleged non-compliance with the standards of conduct defined in the Code of Conduct and to investigate and advise on the Municipal Conflict of Interest and thereafter by a Member.
- 19.5 In all circumstances where the Municipality becomes aware of an allegation that a Member has engaged in any prohibited activity or breached any standard of conduct outlined in this Code of Conduct, whether by informal communications or formal complaints, the matter will be addressed as follows:
- a) The informal complaint procedure may be followed but is not mandatory;
  - b) Any issue of non-compliance with the Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Integrity Commissioner through the Complaint Protocol;
  - c) The Integrity Commissioner shall conduct an Inquiry to determine whether the Member has engaged in conduct in contravention of the Code of Conduct; (except as in Complaints Prior to an Election)
  - d) In planning and pursuing the relevant inquiry, the Integrity Commissioner may proceed consistent with the procedural aspects of any policies addressing the subject of the alleged infringement and exercise their powers under Section 33 and Section 34 of the Public Inquiries Act;



- e) The inquiry pursued by the Integrity Commissioner shall be an independent inquiry; independent of the Municipality or any of its agents, employees or members;
- f) Where the Integrity Commissioner determines that they have reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a contravention of any other act or the Criminal Code, the Integrity Commissioner shall refer the matter to the appropriate authority; suspend their inquiry and report the suspension to Council. In these circumstances Council will pursue the necessary steps to ensure that the matter is addressed consistent with the Municipality's obligations at law and any relevant Municipal policies;
- g) Where the Integrity Commissioner completes an inquiry and determination of the matter, they shall prepare a written report of their findings as to whether a Member has contravened the Code of Conduct. In preparing the report, the Integrity Commissioner may disclose such matters as are necessary for the reporting to Council. The Report shall be delivered to Council. Where a contravention of the Code is substantiated, Council will impose the Penalty.
- h) The Municipality shall consider written reports/findings of the Integrity Commissioner in open session, unless otherwise prohibited by another Act or regulation.
- i) Where the Integrity Commissioner determines that a Member has contravened the Code of Conduct, the Integrity Commissioner shall recommend the penalty; such penalty shall be within the remedial parameters defined in the Municipal Act.
- j) Penalties: Where a Member is found to have breached any standard of conduct required by the Code of Conduct, the penalty will be determined by the Council on the advice of the Integrity Commissioner. In determining the penalty the Council shall take into consideration the nature and degree of the current breach of the Code and any prior non-compliance with the Code of Conduct by the Member.
- k) Exception: Where a Code of Conduct breach is alleged,
  - i) the member may take part in the discussion of the matter, including making submissions to Council or the local board, as the case may be, and may attempt to influence the voting on any question in respect of the matter, whether before, during or after the meeting. However, the member is not permitted to vote on any question in respect of the matter.
  - ii) In the case of a meeting that is not open to the public, the member may attend the meeting or part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration.



- l) Penalties imposed in connection with breaches of the Code of Conduct pursuant to the Code may include:
  - i) A written reprimand; and or;
  - ii) Suspension of remuneration paid to a Member with respect to services up to 90 days

#### Refusal to Conduct Investigation

- 19.6 If the Integrity Commissioner is of the opinion that the referral of a matter to them is frivolous, vexatious, or not made in good faith, or that there are no grounds or insufficient grounds for an investigation, the Integrity Commissioner shall not conduct an investigation, or, where that becomes apparent in the course of an investigation, terminate the investigation.
- 19.7 Complaints referred that are repetitious in nature, not germane to the Code of Conduct in the opinion of the Integrity Commissioner, deemed frivolous and without substance in the opinion of the Integrity Officer, or, where the complaint is deemed vexatious in the opinion of the Integrity Commissioner, complaints shall not be advanced to an investigation stage.
- 19.8 Other than in exceptional circumstances, the Integrity Commissioner will not report to Council or a local board (restricted definition) on any complaint described in subsections (1) and (2) except as part of an annual or other periodic report.
- 19.9 An application may only be made within six weeks after the applicant became aware of the alleged contravention.

#### Complaints or Reports Prior to Election

- 19.10 No complaint regarding a Member who is a candidate in an election may be accepted by the Integrity Commissioner for review and/or investigation between Nomination Day for a regular election and ending of voting day in any year in which a regular municipal election will be held. The Integrity Commissioner shall advise the complainant of the process and hold such complaint in abeyance until after voting day.

# OTHER COMPLAINTS/ ENFORCEMENT RIGHTS BEYOND THE REFERRAL TO THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

- 20.1 While the Municipality encourages complainants, Members and all parties to access and support the use of the Integrity Commissioner as the means of addressing any issues of non compliance with the Code of Conduct by Members, the Municipality has an obligation and commitment to support complainants or potential complainants access to the following processes in connection with allegations of prohibited activity, conduct or communications:

## **Complaints of Harassment (Code or Personal), Discrimination, Violence by Employees, Members of Council**

- Access to the procedures committed to in the Municipality's relevant Policies
- Complainants also have a right to file complaints with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal (in connection with human rights delegations) and complaints with the Ministry of Labour (in connection with delegations of violence, threats of violence or personal harassment).

## **Complaints Regarding Allegations of Conduct Regulated by the Criminal Code**

- Complaints can be directed to the Elgin County Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police to pursue an investigation under Section 122 of the Criminal Code of Canada where allegations of fraud or breach of trust are made in connection with a Member carrying out the duties of the office;
- Complaints can be directed to the Elgin County Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police to pursue an investigation under Section 122 of the Criminal Code of Canada regarding allegations of a Member's involvement in demands for, acceptance of, offering or agreement to accept a loan, reward, benefit or their advantage from any person, in connection with the performance of the duties of the Member in the office;

## **Complainant's Direct Dealings with Members in Connection with Concerns of Non-Compliance with the Code of Conduct**

- Any person who believes that a Member has infringed any standard under this Code of Conduct can advise the Member of the concern directly (verbally or in writing) that their activity infringes the Code of Conduct;
- Such person (complainant) may directly encourage the Member to stop the offending activity
- Such person (complainant) should keep a record of the incident, including date, time, location, persons present and any other relevant information.



# JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION

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- 21.1 In circumstances where liability is denied and the alleged misconduct is serious in nature, Council may pass a resolution, pursuant to s. 274(1) of the Municipal Act, requesting a judicial investigation into the Member of Council, or Council's Local Board or Committee Member's conduct.

## SUMMARY

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- 22.1 The Municipality and all Members of Council share an important interest and responsibility in ensuring that the standards of conduct required under this Code of Conduct are understood, maintained and where necessary enforced by holding Members accountable. The standards reflect the ethical and legal context in which the Municipality and Members must deliver services to the community served by the Council and Members. Deviations from the standards of conduct outlined in this Code of Conduct leave the Municipality, Council and individual Members exposed to the following:
- a) Reputational risk;
  - b) Loss of credibility in the community;
  - c) Risks of significant liabilities.







**All Members of Council are expected to be knowledgeable of the contents of this Code of Conduct and of the related Municipal Policies, and to adhere to the standards of conduct defined in the Code of Conduct and Policies.**

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 - INFORMAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

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Individuals (for example, Municipal employees, members of the public, members of Council or local boards (restricted definition), or organizations (including local boards (restricted definition) who have identified or witnessed behaviour or an activity by a member of Council or a local board (restricted definition) that they believe is in contravention of the Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards (Restricted Definition) the "Code of Conduct" would address the prohibited behaviour or activity themselves as follows:

- a) advise the member that the behaviour or activity contravenes the Code of Conduct;
- b) encourage the member to stop the prohibited behaviour or activity;
- c) keep a written record of the incidents including dates, times, locations, other persons present, and any other relevant information;
- d) tell someone else (for example, a senior staff member or an officer of the organization) about your concerns, your comments to the member and the response of the member;
- e) if applicable, confirm to the member's satisfaction with the response of the member; or, if applicable, advise the member of your dissatisfaction with the response; and,
- f) consider the need to pursue the matter in accordance with the formal complaint procedure outlined in Appendix 3, or in accordance with another applicable judicial or quasi-judicial processor complaint procedure.

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to initially pursue this informal complaint procedure as a means of stopping and remedying a behaviour or activity that is prohibited by the Code of Conduct. With the consent of the complaining individual or organization and the member, the Integrity Commissioner may be part of any informal process. However, it is not a precondition or a prerequisite that those complaining pursue the informal complaint procedure prior to pursuing the formal complaint procedure.

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 2 - DUTIES OF A MUNICIPAL INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

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The Integrity Commissioner shall perform the duties and have the powers provided for in the Act, including but not limited to the following:

1. **Advisory:** upon proper request, provide written and/or verbal advice to individual members of Council respecting the application of the Code of Conduct and/or any other procedures, rules, and policies relating to and reflecting upon their ethical behavior, including but not limited to general interpretation of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act (Ontario); and furthermore and when appropriate, providing the full Council with specific and general opinions and advice respecting compliance by elected officials in respect of the provisions of governing statutes the Code of Conduct and any other applicable procedures, rules, and policies.
2. **Compliance Investigation/Determinations:** upon proper request from a member of Council or local board, municipal administration or one or more members of the public, to conduct an inquiry and make a determination as to any alleged contravention of the Code of Conduct applicable procedures, rules, and policies by a member of Council or local board and, thereafter, to report the details and results of such inquiry to municipal Council.
3. **Educational:** provide the Chief Administrative Officer or as directed with an annual report of activities during the previous calendar year as Integrity Commissioner, including but not necessarily limited to advice given to Council or individual members of Council and a summary of inquiry results and determinations; furthermore, provide outreach programs to members of Council and local boards and relevant staff on legislation, protocols, and office procedures emphasizing the importance of compliance with a Code of Conduct for public confidence in Municipal Government; and, furthermore, dissemination of information available to the public on the website operated by Central Elgin.

Notwithstanding that set forth above, the parties acknowledge and agree that the function of the Integrity Commissioner is to provide advice and opinion to Council and members thereof, to provide independent complaint prevention, investigation, adjudication, and resolution to members of Council and the public, and education respecting adherence with the Code of Conduct for members of Council and other procedures, rules, and policies governing ethical behavior.

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 2

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The parties hereto also acknowledge and agree the Integrity Commissioner, will perform services, and in particular those services relating to advisory and educational duties, in a manner so as to avoid duplicated advice, opinion, and cost in respect of identical requests and inquiries - for example, the Integrity Commissioner shall decline to provide individualized advice and opinion to more than one member of Council or a local board on identical issues but should choose to provide general advice to Council or such local board as a whole to answer all such inquiries. In addition, it is recognized that the Integrity Commissioner, will likely receive requests for advice on matters involving compliance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act - while the Integrity Commissioner may provide general interpretation of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, it is expected that individual members of Council or local boards will seek independent legal advice on a specific question of individual compliance with such legislation.

4. The application of sections 5, 5.1, and 5.2 of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act to members of Council and of local boards will become the responsibility of the Integrity Commissioner on March 1, 2019.

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 3 - COMPLAINT PROTOCOL

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1. Any member of Council, staff or the public that believes they have experienced or witnessed conduct in contravention with the Code of Conduct may file a complaint and request an investigation.
2. All complaints shall be in writing and signed by an identifiable individual.
3. A complaint shall set out reasonable and probable grounds for the allegation that the member as contravened the Code of Conduct and include a support affidavit that sets out the evidence in support of the complaint.
4. The complaint protocol information package shall be available at the Municipal office.