



Allan Thompson
Mayor

February 23, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: minister.mah@ontario.ca

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

RECEIVED
February 25, 2022
REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Dear Minister Clark,

RE: REQUEST TO THE PROVINCE TO STRENGTHEN MUNICIPAL CODES OF CONDUCT

The Town of Caledon Council at its meeting on February 22, 2022, passed a resolution requesting the Province to Strengthen Municipal Codes of Conduct.

The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas discrimination and workplace harassment is occurring with increasing frequency in municipal councils across the province and may be a reason why people are discouraged from running for office in local government;

Whereas politicians deserve the same protection from discrimination and harassment in the workplace as any other profession;

Whereas although the Municipal Act requires all municipalities to establish a code of conduct for members of council and certain local boards to ensure accountability there is no adequate provincial standard set out in the statute as to the acceptable minimum standard as to how Codes of Conduct are written and enforced;

Whereas there is an inconsistent approach across the province as to how municipal councils address recommendations from integrity commissioners;

Whereas the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing initiated a consultation process in 2021 to strengthen Municipal Codes of Conduct to ensure that members of council maintain a safe and respectful workplace and carry out their duties toward each other as elected officials in an ethical and responsible manner;

Whereas the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has not brought forward any proposed legislative amendments to the Municipal Act regarding Municipal Codes of Conduct to date; Now therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing be requested to provide an update on the status of the review of Municipal Codes of Conduct;

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East, Caledon, ON, Canada L7C 1J6
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That the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing consider the following to strengthen Municipal Codes of Conduct as part of the review:

- a) Create policies and/or rules extend existing protections to safeguard members of Council from workplace harassment and discrimination;*
- b) Establish consistent standards for all municipalities; and*
- c) All codes be required to include a social media policy for members of council;*

That the Municipal Act be amended to provide all municipal integrity commissioners the authority to impose sanctions without the approval of council; and

Further that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Region of Peel and the members of the Municipal Integrity Commissioners of Ontario (MICO).

Minister Clark, please contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached by email to mayor@caledon.ca or by phone at 905.584.2272 ext. 4155.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Allan Thompson
Mayor

- c. John E. Fleming, Integrity Commissioner, Town of Caledon, johnfleming@cogeco.ca
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, amo@amo.on.ca
Aretha Adams, Deputy Clerk and Acting Director of Administration, Region of Peel, Aretha.Adams@peelregion.ca
Office of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, info@oico.on.ca