

Township of Southgate
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Staff Report CL2021-011

Title of Report: CL2021-011-Municipal Code of Conduct Consultation Survey
Department: Clerks
Branch: Legislative and Council Services
Council Date: May 5, 2021

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report CL2021-011 as information; and **That** Council appoint Mayor Woodbury to participate in the June 8, 2021 townhall session with other Western Ontario municipal representatives to discuss Municipal Codes of Conduct being hosted by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Background:

Under the [Municipal Act, 2001](#), all municipalities are required to establish a code of conduct for councillors and certain local boards. They are also required to provide access to an integrity commissioner.

Currently, in effect at the Township of Southgate is [Policy No. 9 – Code of Conduct](#) for Members of Council, Committee and Local Boards and [By-law 2019-002 – Appointment of Integrity Commissioners: Principles Integrity](#).

Staff Comments:

With the support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on April 14, 2021 the Ontario Government announced a 90-day consultation being launched to obtain feedback on how to strengthen municipal codes of conduct. The full news release from the Province can be viewed [here](#).

The aim of the consultation is to ensure that councillors and heads of council maintain a safe and respectful workplace and carry out their duties as elected officials ethically and responsibly.

Staff are encouraging members of Council, Committees, Local Boards, and the public to participate in the online survey and share their thoughts and comments on how to bring effective accountability to municipal governments.

The survey is open until **July 15, 2021** and can be completed here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-strengthening-accountability-municipal-council-members>

Staff will be sharing the survey on our website and through our social media outlets to encourage participation by the public. Staff will also be submitting feedback through the online survey.

Further, on April 27, 2021 staff received correspondence, included in this report as Attachment #1, from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to invite members of Council from Western Ontario Municipalities to participate in a townhall session. The purpose of this session is for members of Council to provide feedback to the Ministry regarding codes of conduct. They are asking that one member of our Council be identified to participate in the session being held on June 8, 2021.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to the Township as a result of this report.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments:

That Council receive Staff Report CL2021-011 as information and that Council appoint Mayor Woodbury to participate in the June 8, 2021 townhall session with other Western Ontario municipal representatives to discuss Municipal Codes of Conduct being hosted by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Lastly, staff encourages members participation in the municipal code of conduct consultation survey.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Lindsey Green, Clerk

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dave Milliner, CAO

Attachment #1 - MMAH Invitation to Western Ontario- Municipal Code of Conduct Consultation - 8 June 2021