
Monday, April 8, 2024

Michael de Rond
Clerk
Town of Aurora
100 John West, Box 1000
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1

SENT VIA EMAIL: mderond@aurora.ca

RE: Town of Goderich Resolution – Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Code of Conduct

Dear M. Rond,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 18, 2024, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Thompson

Seconded By: Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS all Ontarians deserve and expect a safe and respectful workplace;
and

WHEREAS municipal governments, as the democratic institutions most directly engaged with Ontarians need respectful discourse; and Whereas several incidents in recent years of disrespectful behaviour and workplace harassment have occurred amongst municipal members of councils across Ontario; and

WHEREAS these incidents seriously and negatively affect the people involved and lower public perceptions of local governments; and

WHEREAS municipal Codes of Conduct are helpful tools to set expectations of council member behaviour; and

WHEREAS municipal governments have limited abilities in their toolkit to adequately enforce compliance with municipal Codes of Conduct; and

WHEREAS the most severe penalty that can be imposed on a municipal member of council is the suspension of pay for 90 days, even when egregious acts are committed and substantiated; and

WHEREAS AMO has called on the government to table and pass legislation that reflects the following recommendations:

- Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment.
- Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario.
- Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province.
- Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner.
- Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Town of Goderich supports the call of action the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has submitted to the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them, in consultation with municipal governments; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the legislation encompasses the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's letter of recommendations which includes options for enforcing compliance by council members with municipal Codes of Conduct such as;
 - Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment.
 - Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario.
 - Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the Province.
 - Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner o Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce, and the Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Ontario municipalities.

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CARRIED

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or afisher@goderich.ca.

Yours truly,

Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/ar

cc. Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
MPP Lisa Thompson, Huron–Bruce lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
Ontario Municipalities