



Staff Report

Administration – Town Clerk

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: August 25, 2025
Report Number: ADM.25.059
Title: Council Code of Conduct – Update
Prepared by: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report ADM.25.059, entitled “Council Code of Conduct - Update”;

AND THAT Council direct staff to pause its review of the Council Code of Conduct Policy POL.COR.21.06, pending the outcome of Province’s consideration of legislation that would enable a new, standardized municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework for municipalities;

AND THAT Council direct staff to provide a further report to Council in Q4 of 2025 providing an update on the status of the bill.

B. Overview

This report seeks Council direction to pause the review of the Council Code of Conduct, POL.COR.21.06 pending the outcome of the Province’s consideration of a new Bill that would standardize municipal codes of conduct.

C. Background

At the May 12, Council Meeting, in response to staff report ["ADM.25.029 Council Direction, Council Code of Conduct and Employee Code of Conduct"](#), Council resolved as follows:

THAT Council receive Staff Report ADM.25.029, entitled “Council Direction, Council Code of Conduct and Employee Code of Conduct”;

AND THAT Council direct staff to provide an updated Employee Code of Conduct, integrating the feedback received from the Accountability and Transparency Committee, the Town’s Solicitor, Integrity Commissioner and Council by the June 30, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting for Council's consideration and enactment;

AND THAT following enactment of the Employee Code of Conduct, Council direct staff to continue the review of the “Council Code of Conduct, Policy No. POL.COR.21.06” in coordination with the Town’s Integrity Commissioner, Town’s Solicitor, and the

Accountability and Transparency Committee as directed at the December 16, 2024 Council Meeting;

AND THAT following enactment of the new Council Code of Conduct, Council direct staff to continue the review and update of the “Council Staff Relationship Protocol, Policy No. POL.COR.19.02”, as directed at the December 16, 2024 Council Meeting, CARRIED.

Further to the direction above, Staff confirm that the Employee Code of Conduct was enacted by Council at the July 14, 2025 Council.

On May 1, 2025, the Province announced that it was re-introducing the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*, that would enable a new standardized municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework. [Ontario Supporting Stronger Local Governance Newsroom, May 1, 2025](#). At this time, the Bill has received its second reading, but has not yet received Royal Assent.

[Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Bill 9 Municipal Accountability Act, 2025](#)

D. Analysis

At this time, staff are recommending pausing the review of the Council Code of Conduct, pending completion of the Province’s update to the Municipal Act, and consideration of Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act, 2025. Presumably, if the legislation passes as written, a regulation would be created that would entrench a standardized code of conduct for all municipalities to follow requiring the Town’s Council Code of Conduct Policy to be repealed. There may be efficiencies in this approach, particularly in the delivery of Integrity Commissioner (IC) services recognizing the IC would only need to be familiar with one policy applicable to all municipalities.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

F. Environmental Impacts

None

G. Financial Impacts

None

H. In Consultation With

Adam Smith, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting at this time. The update to the Council Code of Conduct Policy will require a Public Meeting to be held to receive public comments, but at this time, the Public Meeting has not been scheduled. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

townclerk@thebluemountains.ca .

J. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

Corrina Giles
Town Clerk

For more information, please contact:
Corrina Giles, Town Clerk
townclerk@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 232

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	ADM.25.059 Council Code of Conduct - Update.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 15, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Adam Smith - Aug 15, 2025 - 12:15 PM