

Bylaw 27-2018 Council Code of Conduct**Report Purpose**

To seek three readings of bylaw 27-2018, a bylaw to establish a code of conduct for elected officials.

Recommendation

1. THAT Bylaw 27-2018, a bylaw to establish a Code of Conduct for Council, be given first reading;
2. THAT Bylaw 27-2018 be given second reading;
3. THAT Bylaw 27-2018 be considered for third reading;
4. THAT Bylaw 27-2018 be given third reading.

Council History

May 15, 2018 – Priorities Committee was provided with a draft version of the Council Code of Conduct.

October 7, 2014 – Council reviewed the Council Code of Conduct policy (GOV-001-028)

April 24, 2011 – Council approved the Council Code of Conduct policy (GOV-001-028)

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: n/a

Governance: A Code of Conduct Bylaw supports accountable and transparent governance and helps establish trust in Council on the part of citizens and rate payers.

Social: n/a

Culture: n/a

Environment: n/a

Other Impacts

Policy: The Council Code of Conduct bylaw will subsume the content in the following Council Policies: Council Code of Conduct; Council Communications; and Election Campaigns.

Legislative/Legal: The *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, M-26, s. 146.1(1) requires that a council establish, by bylaw, a code of conduct governing the conduct of councillors. The Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Regulation (200/2017) provides the required contents for the Code of Conduct bylaw.

Interdepartmental: Legislative and Legal Services is supporting the development of the draft bylaw.

Summary

The Government of Alberta began a comprehensive review of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) in 2012. Since that time, a number of changes to the MGA were passed in three amending bills. In addition to the amending bills, a number of new regulations have also been approved. One of the more significant governance revisions relates to the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials (Enclosure 1).

Municipalities must establish a code of conduct bylaw as per the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Regulation that governs the conduct of councillors and is applied to all councillors equally. The related sections of legislation and the regulation came into force on October 26, 2017. The code of conduct bylaw must be in place by July 23, 2018 (270 days).

Currently, Strathcona County has a Code of Conduct policy; however, the new regulation requires a much more comprehensive Code than what the current policy provides. Based on input from the Governance Advisory Committee and the Priorities Committee, Administration has prepared the bylaw for Council's consideration.

Communication Plan

Once the bylaw is approved, the bylaw will be made available on the County's public website.

Enclosure

- 1 Code of Conduct for Elected Officials
- 2 Bylaw 27-2018 Council Code of Conduct