

Following the October 16, 2017 municipal election, the Government of Alberta adopted the *Code of Conduct for Elected Officials, Regulation, AR 200/2017* and published the 24-page *Councillor Codes of Conduct: A Guide for Municipalities* which set out 13 “minimum requirements” which each municipality’s Code...**must include!**

After an in-depth review of Strathcona County Council’s *Council Code of Conduct Bylaw 27-2018* approved on June 19, 2018 it would appear that this Code does not adequately comply with those 13 requirements.

On May 15, 2018 Council’s Legislative and Legal Services noted that it had particular concerns about Council’s Governance Advisory Committee’s recommendation to Council regarding the “**formal complaint process**”:

1. **“The approach....differs from the approach taken by other municipalities in that the complaint process is limited to members of Council (e.g. members of the public are not able to make a Code of Conduct complaint”).**
2. **“While some municipalities are relying on an independent external investigator, the draft process has the whole of Council as the main body that receives complaints”.**

On September 29, 2020 I will be making a notice of motion that Council direct the Administration to prepare amendments to *Bylaw 27-2018* by the end of Q4 to:

1. Establish a complaint process that enables any member of council **or the public**
 - to make a Code of Conduct complaint against any member of Council
 - to identify the method by which complaints can be made, and
 - the process to determine a complaints validity by an independent external investigator who is not appointed by Council (e.g. the GOA Ombudsman or the Minister of Municipal Affairs)

2. Considering that the fact that ***Council Code of Conduct Bylaw 27-2018*** approved on June 19, 2018 appears to no longer have a “Code of Ethics” attached to it, I am requesting that Council re-incorporate four provisions from ***Schedule “A” Code of Ethics*** which was attached to ***GOV-001-028 Code of Conduct*** to which all councillors swore to uphold after being elected.

These four provisions could be added as amendments to **PART II: COUNCILLOR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES (section 5)**

Guideline D. Impartiality: The principle of justice holding that decisions should be based on objective criteria, rather than on the basis of bias, prejudice, or preferring the benefit to one person over another for improper reasons. Members of Council shall perform their duties of office and arrange their private affairs *in a manner that promotes public confidence and will bear close public scrutiny* ...Councillors *must not place themselves under financial obligations that may influence them* in discharging their duties and responsibilities as councillors.

Guideline H. Accountability: Councillors themselves have the primary responsibility to assure that ethical standards are understood and met and that the public can continue to have full confidence in the integrity of the County.

Promise 10. Not use my position to benefit me or any other individual or organization, apart from the total interest of the community; and avoid placing myself in a position *where there may be real or perceived conflict of interest*.

Promise 14. Commit to disclosing the appropriate authorities and/or to Council any behavior or activity that I become aware of that may qualify as corruption, abuse, fraud, bribery *or any other violation of the law or this Policy*.

Strathcona County residents expect their elected officials be held to high ethical standards and to consistently govern with transparency and absolute integrity. I believe these proposed amendments to ***Council Code of Conduct Bylaw 27-2018*** will promote resident confidence in this regard.