



April 16, 2021

Municipal Code of Conduct

Moved by Mayor Watson (Ottawa)

Seconded by Mayor Guthrie (Guelph)

Whereas currently the Municipal Act 2001, provides limited actions towards Members of Council who have violated their respective Council Codes of Conduct; and

Whereas there have been several examples in Ontario of Members of Council acting with deliberate and total disregard for any of the principles and values outlined in their respective Council Code of Conduct and the workplace policies proclaimed by Council; and

Whereas AMO has adopted a four-point position that includes allowing a judicial removal of a Member of Council at the recommendation of a municipal Integrity Commissioner in instances of egregious or repeated violations of a Council Code of a Conduct;

Therefore be it resolved that OBCM take the position that there be stronger consequences for flagrant violations of a Council Code of Conduct by a Member of Council, including but not limited to removal of office; and

Be it further resolved that OBCM write to the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Honourable Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues seeking revisions to the Municipal Act, 2001 that would provide for the vacating of the seat of a member of council who has been found on clear and convincing evidence to have committed serious misconduct, including any definitions necessary for the implementation of such a provision; and

Be it further resolved that these revisions consider allowing a Council or a municipal Integrity Commissioner to refer a Code of Conduct Violator to the court for a judicial hearing or an arm's length, non-political third party to address the potential removal from office of a Member of Council, similar to the current process with respect to attest relating to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

CARRIED