

employees. The new legislation speaks to the conduct of Councils only, however there is nothing precluding Council's from having a combined policy of this nature.

Council also has a *Roles and Responsibilities Guidelines Policy* (attached) last amended in 2000, delineating the roles and responsibilities of both Council and Staff as well as the relationship between the two. Several of the prescribed principles are touched upon within this policy as well.

Working Group on Responsible Conduct

The Working Group on Responsible Conduct (WGRC), a joint initiative of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Local Government Management Association (LGMA), was formed to better understand issues related to responsible conduct and to explore how B.C.'s responsible conduct framework could be further strengthened.

In 2021, Resolution SR3 (Strengthening Responsible Conduct) was endorsed by UBCM members. This resolution included several requests that would strengthen B.C.'s responsible conduct framework. The WGRC is collaboratively working to implement and evaluate the requested changes to the existing framework.

The WGRC developed a model code of conduct that set out shared principles and standards of conduct to help councils or boards get started on developing their own code of conduct. The document is also useful for councils or boards who wish to review or refresh an existing code of conduct.

- [Model Code of Conduct: Getting Started on a Code of Conduct for Your Council/Board \(PDF, 409KB\)](#)

A companion guide is also available to facilitate a council or board's conversations as they go through the process of developing their own code of conduct. This guide provides discussion questions, things to keep in mind, and other helpful tips and resources.

- [Companion Guide: Getting Started on a Code of Conduct for Your Council/Board \(PDF, 432KB\)](#)

CONCLUSION:

As per the new legislative requirements, Council will need to decide whether their existing policy is sufficient as it relates to the prescribed principles for codes of conduct as outlined, or whether further review is needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Council direction is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melisa Miles,
Corporate Officer

CAO Concurrence,



Lorraine Hilton,
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Attachment "A" – District of Highlands Code of Ethics – Council, Committees, Boards and Municipal Employees Policy
Attachment "B" – District of Highlands Roles and Responsibilities Guidelines Policy

