



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: March 14, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Subject: **Code of Conduct Council Policy**

Report Prepared by: Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager/Corporate Officer

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council review, amend, if necessary, and adopt the proposed new Code of Conduct Policy required under the *Community Charter*.

BACKGROUND

Province of BC Bill 26 amendments to the *Community Charter* now require that within 6 months of the first regular Council Meeting all Local Governments must either establish a code of conduct, use a current code of conduct, and decide if it should be reviewed or amended. Should Council choose to not establish a code of conduct, a statement respecting the decision must be made available to the public.

Currently, the City of West Kelowna has a *Code of Ethics* policy that was adopted in August 2012. With the passing of Bill 26, the Working Group on Responsible Conduct developed a model code for local governments (a joint initiative of the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Local Government Management Association of British Columbia, and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities).

This model represents the foundation principles of *integrity, respect, accountability, leadership, and collaboration*. These four principles are the foundation of every code of conduct for local governments that are the prescribed principles of a Code of Conduct that meet the Community Charter requirements.

Staff have prepared a draft Code of Conduct for consideration that is a collaboration of the resources provided from the Working Group on Responsible Conduct and our surrounding communities policies. (District of Summerland, the RDCO, District of Peachland and the City of Kelowna).

Staff have not put forward a suggested section on enforcement and are awaiting this discussion and direction should Council want to make any amendments. Council may

also want to amend the existing Code of Ethics Policy to meet the Community Charter and direct staff in that regard as well.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Charter, S. 113.1 Requirement to consider code of conduct.

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council not approve the proposed new Code of Conduct Policy as required under the *Community Charter*; and

THAT Council provide a statement under the *Community Charter*, s. 113.1(3) an explanation statement respecting the reasons for this decision.

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Attachments:

1. Current Code of Ethics (adopted August 14, 2012)
2. Draft Code of Conduct