



Office of the Regional Clerk  
Corporate Services Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Council

From: Christopher Raynor  
Regional Clerk

Date: December 12, 2018

Re: Update on Integrity Commissioner and Council Code of Conduct

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### **Changes to the *Municipal Act* require all municipalities to have both an Integrity Commissioner and a Council Code of Conduct in place by March 1, 2019**

Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017 received Royal Assent on May 30, 2017. It amended the Municipal Act to require that by March 1, 2019 "a municipality shall establish codes of conduct for members of council and its local boards." Additionally, it requires municipalities to appoint an Integrity Commissioner.

Regulation 55/18 requires that Council Codes of Conduct must include the following sections:

1. Gifts, benefits and hospitality.
2. Respectful conduct, including conduct toward officers and employees of the municipality or the local board, as the case may be.
3. Confidential information.
4. Use of property of the municipality or of the local board, as the case may be.

## **Regional Council considered a Council Code of Conduct and an Integrity Commissioner on April 19, 2018**

On [April 19, 2018](#), staff presented a draft Council Code of Conduct for consideration. The draft Code was based on other existing Codes, especially those in place in the local municipalities, and included the legislatively-required topics as well as other common elements.

Staff also sought authority to appoint an Integrity Commissioner. In its decision, Council delegated authority to the Regional Clerk to appoint an Integrity Commissioner for a five year term, with the option to renew for an additional five years.

Council also directed the future Integrity Commissioner to work with them to develop the required Council Code of Conduct.

## **Principles Integrity is the Region's first Integrity Commissioner**

Following a competitive process that started with five respondents, Principles Integrity was selected as the Region's first Integrity Commissioner. Principles Integrity was the highest-scoring and lowest cost of qualifying respondents.

Principles Integrity is a partnership between Jeffrey Abrams and Janice Atwood-Petkovski, two experienced municipal lawyers and corporate leaders. Mr. Abrams was called to the Bar in 1985 and Ms. Atwood-Petkovski was called to the Bar in 1987. Their municipal experience spans Metropolitan Toronto, the City of Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton, Brampton, York Region and Vaughan.

Principles Integrity serves over 30 municipal clients including Peel Region, Halton Region, Mississauga and Kingston. Within York Region, Principles Integrity serves the Towns of Whitchurch-Stouffville and East Gwillimbury and Aurora.

Staff is confident that Principles Integrity will bring a collaborative approach and will work with Council to promote the perception of Regional Council as a body that operates with integrity.

## **Staff have referred the development of a Code of Conduct to the Integrity Commissioner**

As per Council's direction on [April 19, 2018](#), staff referred the matter of a Code of Conduct to the future Integrity Commissioner.

Staff provided Principles Integrity with the previous Council report, draft Code of Conduct and Council's direction. They will consider the information as part of recommending a suitable Code of Conduct for Regional Council.

**Principles Integrity will be invited to an Education Session at the January 17, 2019 meeting of Committee of the Whole, with a draft Code of Conduct to follow**

Principles Integrity will provide an orientation session for Regional Council on January 17, 2019. This session will likely cover the legislative requirements for an Integrity Commissioner and a Council Code of Conduct, how Council can expect to interact with the Integrity Commissioner, how investigations will be handled and the general approach and philosophy of the Integrity Commissioner.

Following this Education Session, a draft Code of Conduct will be presented to Regional Council for consideration at the January 31, 2019 Council meeting.

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Christopher Raynor  
Regional Clerk

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