

Responsible Conduct: Codes of Conduct – From Principles to Action!

Introduction and Context

LGLA Leadership Forum

January 31, 2018

What is Responsible Conduct?

'Responsible conduct' broadly refers to how local government elected officials conduct themselves with their elected official colleagues, with local government staff, and with the public.

Integrity

Honesty

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RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT

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Further government based on good governance principles:

- Transparent
- Ethical
- Accountable
- Respectful of the rule of law
- Collaborative
- Effective
- Efficient

Working Group on Responsible Conduct (WGRC)

- WGRC formed in Fall 2016 with staff from UBCM, LGMA and the Ministry
- Undertook collaborative research, policy work and consultation to explore issues related to responsible conduct and develop recommendations
- WGRC policy paper (with recommendations) endorsed at 2017 UBCM Convention

Key Recommendations

- Articulate foundational principles of responsible conduct (embed in guidance materials)
- Options for code of conduct content (foundational principles)
- Include foundational principles in oath of office

- Develop list of resources for elected officials
- Consider components of a model for fact-finding and assessment to provide guidance

Promoting Responsible Conduct

Repairing Relationships

Imposing Sanctions

Evaluating & Making Determinations

- Options for a range of sanctions for breaches of a code of conduct

- Options for evaluating / determining alleged breaches of a code of conduct

Four Key Foundational Principles

- Four foundational principles of responsible conduct:
 - Integrity
 - Accountability
 - Respect
 - Leadership & Collaboration
- Intended to guide conduct of elected officials and collective behaviour of council or board

Defining the Foundational Principles

Integrity

- Be truthful, honest and open in all dealings
- Make decisions in the best interests of the community

Accountability

- Be transparent in conducting business and carrying out duties
- Listen to / consider opinions and needs of community in decision making, and allow for discourse and feedback

Defining the Foundational Principles

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat people with dignity and understanding and have due regard for other perspectives• Value role of diverse perspectives and debate in decision making
Leadership and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate behaviour that builds and inspires public trust and confidence• Accept the responsibility to work together to achieve common goals

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Foundational Principles → Action

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Panel Discussion

Panel members:

- Reece Harding, Lawyer, Young Anderson Barristers & Solicitors
- Mayor Andy Adams, City of Campbell River
- Director Wendy Booth, RDEK & UBCM President
- Mayor Jonathan Cote, City of New Westminster

Group Discussion

Question 1:
How do you see the Foundational Principles serving the goals of responsible conduct of elected officials with each other, staff and the public in your community?

Question 2:
What tools e.g. code of conduct, council charter, procedure bylaw etc. do you use in your community that help elected officials conduct themselves in a responsible manner and support council in managing conduct at the council or board table, with staff and with the public?

End of session