

March 27, 2023

AMO Policy Update – Codes of Conduct

AMO Calls for Legislation to Strengthen Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement

At its meeting on March 24th, 2023, the AMO Board reaffirmed its recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance. AMO has written to the [Minister](#) and to the [Premier](#) to request new legislation to enact the recommendations.

In 2021, AMO was asked to provide [recommendations](#) to the Minister to strengthen the application of municipal Codes of Conduct for elected officials. AMO supplied a number of strong recommendations to the Minister including:

- Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment
- Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime that could be adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario
- Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province
- Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner

On March 24th, 2023, the Board also approved a further recommendation to prohibit a member removed through application to a judge from running for election in the term in which removed and the subsequent term of office.

AMO's Board believes that ethical behaviour and respectful civil discourse are fundamental to continued public faith in democracy. The Board further believes that the current tools available to municipal councils to ensure such ethical behaviour and respectful discourse are inadequate and do not meet public expectations. The Board has called on the government to release the results of its 2021 consultations and to work in partnership with AMO and municipal governments to legislate the recommended changes.

AMO has provided [sample resolution text](#) for councils that wish to lend their support to this call.