

Responsible Conduct and Being an Effective Elected Official



Responsible conduct is central to good local governance. The way elected officials conduct themselves with their colleagues, staff, and the public directly affects public trust, the quality of decision-making, and the ability of a council or board to serve the community effectively.

Responsible conduct means elected officials conduct themselves in a manner that reflects principles such as:

- **Integrity**
- **Accountability**
- **Respect**
- **Leadership**
- **Collaboration**

These principles support a local government's ability to provide good governance for the community, including:

- stewarding public assets responsibly;
- providing services, laws, and other matters for community benefit; and
- acting in a way that is accountable, transparent, ethical, respectful of the rule of law, collaborative, effective, and efficient.

CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICE?

If you are considering running for local elected office, please be aware that the role carries important legal and ethical responsibilities.

Locally elected officials are expected to carry out their duties in accordance with the [Community Charter](#), the [Local Government Act](#), and other applicable provincial laws.

These include requirements related to conduct, confidentiality, privacy, employment matters, local procedures, and the proper exercise of elected official authority.

UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT LEGISLATION

Local government responsible conduct requirements are anticipated in Fall 2026 when [Bill 17 Municipal Affairs Statutes \(Codes of Conduct\) Amendments Act](#) introduced in April 2026 is brought into force.

The proposed legislation and associated regulations are expected to establish:

- standards of behaviour for local elected officials;
- a standard process for code of conduct complaints;
- requirements for investigations; and
- sanctions that may be applied when a code of conduct has been breached.

Locally elected officials can expect further guidance materials on the code of conduct framework, as well as local training during orientation for new councils and boards.