



District of Parry Sound Municipal Association

c/o Township of McKellar, 701 Hwy 124 McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

President: Lynda Carleton **Secretary-Treasurer:** Karlee Britton

RE: Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education

The District of Parry Sound Municipal Association (DPSMA), representing the twenty-three Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound, held its Spring 2025 meeting on May 23, 2025, in the Municipality of Callander. At this meeting, the following resolution was carried:

Moved by: Kathy Hamer (Municipality of McDougall)

Seconded by: Daniel O'Halloran (Township of McMurrich Monteith)

Whereas democracy is an open process – one that requires ongoing engagement between citizens and their elected officials; and

Whereas ethics and integrity are at the core of public confidence in government and in the political process; and

Whereas proper policies and procedures protect the democratic process; and

Whereas sections 223.2 and 223.3, Municipal Act, 2001 state all municipalities are required to adopt a Code of Conduct for members of Council and to appoint an Integrity Commissioner; and

Whereas it is the role of the Integrity Commissioner to educate member of Council on the Councillor Code of Conduct policy as well as to investigate alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, at the municipality's expense; and

Whereas there are many new elected officials each term of Council who need access to information and proper training in order to do the work effectively and responsibly; and

Whereas Municipal Affairs and the Ombudsman's Office are hesitant to give information, so there is nowhere to ask questions and learn; and

Whereas the only source of information is to pay for fee-for-service on a case-by-case basis from the Integrity Commissioner which is very cost-prohibitive for small municipalities; and

Whereas Council is expected to oversee the management of taxpayers money and taxpayers deserve to know where their tax dollars are being spent;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association calls upon the Ontario government to provide free access to information so that Councils can be effective in their role in our democratic system; and

Further That the DPSMA hereby requests that Municipal Affairs and/or the Ombudsman's Office and/or the Integrity Commissioner provide, if requested by a municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each investigation.

Further That this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka and to all Ontario Municipalities for support.

Forwarded on behalf of the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association; For questions and/or inquires, please contact:

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cc:

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound
All Ontario Municipalities