

# Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

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**Subject:** Proposed Municipal Accountability Act -2024

**Memo No:** 2025-M-004

**Date:** January 9, 2025

**Attachment:** Minister's Letter to Heads of Council - Code of Conduct

**Prepared By:** Laala Jahanshahloo - CAO/ Treasurer

## Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-004 as presented.

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## Executive Summary

The proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024, introduces significant changes to enhance governance and accountability for municipal councils across Ontario. These changes necessitate revisions to the municipality's existing Code of Conduct bylaw to align with the new provincial standards. If the bill passes, staff will work collaboratively with Council to implement the required updates, ensuring readiness for the new term of councils beginning in Fall 2026. This timeline provides sufficient opportunity for local adaptation and compliance.

## Background

The proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024, was introduced on December 12, 2024. If enacted, it will amend the Municipal Act, 2001, and the City of Toronto Act, 2006, to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and the integrity commissioner framework. Key provisions of the proposed legislation include:

1. **Standardization:** Establishing a uniform Code of Conduct and investigation process applicable to all municipalities.
2. **Enhanced Oversight:** Creating a role for the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario to provide training and guidance to local integrity commissioners.
3. **Accountability Mechanisms:** Allowing for the removal or disqualification of council members for severe violations, based on recommendations from integrity commissioners and a unanimous council vote.

These changes aim to address longstanding calls for enhanced accountability and governance measures within municipal councils. The proposed amendments are scheduled to take effect in Fall 2026, allowing municipalities adequate time for implementation.

## Conclusion

Updating the municipality's Code of Conduct bylaw is essential to ensuring compliance with the anticipated provincial standards and demonstrating a continued commitment to accountability and ethical governance. If the legislation passes, staff will prioritize completing and adopting all necessary updates within the specified timeline. Council will be kept informed and engaged throughout this process to ensure a smooth transition to the updated framework.

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3  
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2024-5801

December 12, 2024

Dear Head of Council,

I am pleased to inform you of the introduction of the proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024 on December 12, 2024, which, if passed, would make changes to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and *City of Toronto Act, 2006* to strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework.

I appreciate the valuable feedback we have received from municipalities and share your commitment to safe and respectful workplaces. The proposed changes, if passed, would:

- enable the creation of a standard municipal code of conduct and standard municipal integrity commissioner investigation processes to help ensure consistency across all Ontario municipalities;
- create a role for the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario in municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner matters, including providing training to municipal integrity commissioners; and
- establish a mechanism to remove and disqualify members of council and certain local boards for a period of four years for the most serious code of conduct violations following a recommendation from the local integrity commissioner, a concurring report from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, and a unanimous vote of council.

In the coming months, I will want to hear your feedback on the Bill as well as other matters regarding local accountability regimes. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, where we will have the opportunity to discuss these changes and other matters of importance to your communities.

If passed, important work to develop the regulations to support this new framework would lie ahead, and I remain committed to engaging with you throughout that process. Our intention is to have these changes in effect for the new term of councils beginning in Fall 2026 to ensure there is adequate opportunity for local implementation.

For more information on these amendments, please see the [news release](#). To share your comments on the proposed legislation, please see a posting on the [Regulatory Registry](#) that will be open for comments for 60 days.

If you have any questions regarding these new provisions, please contact your local [Municipal Services Office](#) with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Sincerely,

Hon. Paul Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Jessica Lippert, Chief of Staff  
Owen Macri, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister  
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division  
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Services Division  
Municipal Clerks and CAOs