



MEMBER MOTION

Section 5.4.4 (b) of Procedure By-law

Meeting:	Committee of Whole Meeting
Meeting Date:	September 20, 2023
Subject/Title:	Strengthening Municipal Codes of Conduct in Ontario
Submitted by:	Mayor David West

Whereas all Ontarians, including both municipal staff and elected members of council, deserve a safe and respectful workplace free from harassment and bullying; and

Whereas the Municipal Act, 2001, prescribes that municipalities shall have codes of conduct for council and local boards; and

Whereas municipalities and municipal integrity commissioners currently lack the tools to enforce codes of conduct; and

Whereas there are numerous examples of repeated contraventions of codes of conduct, bullying and harassment across the municipal sector; and

Whereas on February 8th, 2023, Mayor David West's Member Motion to support Bill 5 - Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022, was unanimously passed by Richmond Hill Council, but defeated in the Legislature by the Government of Ontario; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has recently consulted and engaged with municipalities across the province on strengthening codes of conduct; and

Whereas on August 20, 2023, at the Association of Municipalities (AMO) conference, the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) and Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM) passed a motion to reaffirm their past support (and the support of other bodies such as AMO) for strengthening municipal codes of conduct; and called on the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen codes of conduct for Ontario's municipalities; by including administrative penalties, increased training, strengthened tools for integrity commissioners, and the ability for municipalities to apply for judicial removal of sitting members if advised by their integrity commissioner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Richmond Hill Council requests that the Government of Ontario introduce legislation to strengthen codes of conduct for Ontario's municipalities; and
2. The proposed legislation include administrative penalties, increased training, strengthened tools for integrity commissioners, and the ability for municipalities to apply for judicial removal of sitting members if advised by their integrity commissioner; and
3. The City Clerk send this motion to Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Ontario Leader of Opposition, and Leaders of other Parties, the Local Members of Parliament (MPs); the Local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); Ontario Big Cities Mayors Caucus (OBCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario; the Small Urban GTHA Mayors as well as York Region and its member municipalities.

Moved by: Mayor David West

Seconded by: