

Subject: Bylaw No. 19/005 - Integrity Commissioner Bylaw**APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT Bylaw No. 19/005, being the Integrity Commissioner Bylaw, be read a first time.

Summary:

The Council Code of Conduct Bylaw ("Code of Conduct") governs the conduct of Council Members and provides a process for reporting improper or inappropriate conduct by a Council Member. The Integrity Commissioner would be responsible for receiving, investigating and adjudicating potential complaints regarding the ethical behaviour of Council Members.

Background:

The Code of Conduct provides standards to guide the conduct of Council Members in carrying out their respective roles and responsibilities as set out in the *Municipal Government Act* and other legislation. When representing the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Council Members must perform their functions and duties in a conscientious and diligent manner with integrity, accountability and transparency.

Presently, any formal complaints are made through the Whistleblower Policy. After reviewing the structure set up by other Alberta municipalities, it has become apparent that a best practice approach is to establish the role of an Integrity Commissioner. The role of the Integrity Commissioner would be, as a third party, to receive, review, investigate and adjudicate formal complaints into any events alleged to contravene the Code of Conduct or any other policies, rules or procedures governing the ethical behaviour of Council Members.

The proposed bylaw establishes the role of the Integrity Commissioner and outlines the complaint procedure as well as amends the Code of Conduct to require complaints be addressed to the Integrity Commissioner and remove references to the Whistleblower Policy, which is also being amended to reflect the proposed change in the complaint process.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Any costs associated with the establishment of the role of Integrity Commissioner would be allocated to Council's budget.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Based on benchmarking with other Alberta municipalities, it is being recommended that the role of an Integrity Commissioner be established to receive, review, investigate and adjudicate complaints into the ethical behaviour of Council Members.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government

Attachments:

Bylaw No. 19/005 - Integrity Commissioner Bylaw