

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 7, 2019

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**SUBJECT Council Code of Conduct**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide options for the creation of a Code of Conduct for Council, and receive further input on the development of a Code of Conduct for adoption by Council.

### **Recommendation**

That the Council Code of Conduct report dated 2019-JAN-07 be received for information, and that Council provide further direction to staff regarding the development of a Code of Conduct.

## **DISCUSSION**

Codes of Conduct are found in many local governments, and serve as an over-arching expression of the way that Council and its members govern their interactions with each other, staff and the public. Members of Council have expressed the desire to develop and adopt such a document at the City of Nanaimo. In support of this initiative, staff have researched a few different examples for Council's consideration. Currently, Council conduct is spoken to only briefly in the Governance Protocol Policy (Attachment A).

Maple Ridge and Prince George have developed a Code of Conduct (see Attachments B and C) in the form of a policy. Policies have the advantage of being fairly easy to develop and modify as necessary, should new circumstances arise.

Port Moody and Lantzville, in contrast, either have or are considering a Code of Conduct in Bylaw form (see Attachment D and E). While a bylaw may not be as easy to modify as a policy is, one could argue that providing a bylaw to address this issue shows perhaps a higher level of commitment to upholding the principles of the Code of Conduct.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities ("UBCM"), through its Working Group on Responsible Conduct, developed a Model Code of Conduct (see Attachment F) for use by local governments. This document addresses all of the key areas that such Codes generally cover, and is presented in a fill-in-the-blank format for quick and easy adoption. A draft of the UBCM-version of the Code of Conduct, with the City of Nanaimo's information included, is included as Attachment G.

Council, if it chose to do so, could spend a considerable amount of time developing a Code of Conduct from scratch, borrowing on examples from a number of places to find just the right expressions of its commitments and beliefs. However, Council has a number of priorities to

tackle in the coming year, and the UBCM has done this work already on behalf of all local governments in the province.

Should Council wish to proceed with developing a Code of Conduct using any of these models, staff will take direction from Council and bring forward a Code of Conduct for Council's adoption.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Local governments have a variety of options for developing and presenting a Code of Conduct.
- Both policies and bylaws have benefits Council may wish to consider.
- The UBCM's Model Code of Conduct has simplified much of the work for local governments who want to adopt a Code of Conduct.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Governance Protocol Policy  
Attachment B: Maple Ridge Code of Conduct  
Attachment C: Prince George Code of Conduct  
Attachment D: Port Moody Code of Conduct  
Attachment E: Lantzville Draft Code of Conduct  
Attachment F: UBCM Model Code of Conduct  
Attachment G: Draft Code of Conduct

### **Submitted by:**

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