



Claresholm

Where **Community** Takes Root

July 26, 2021

Honourable Ric McIver
Minister of Municipal Affairs
320 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: CODE OF CONDUCT

At the last regular meeting of Claresholm Town Council held Monday, July 19, 2021, Council discussed the Councillor Codes of Conduct instituted by the Alberta Government on October 26, 2017. It has been brought to our attention by the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) that the current Alberta Government has plans in the works to remove the requirement for municipalities to have a Code of Conduct in place to govern all Councillors equally by way of Bylaw.

The Town of Claresholm passed Bylaw #1641, the Council Code of Conduct Bylaw on April 9, 2018 prior to the government's deadline of July 23, 2018. In the current Council's first year of governance, it became inherently clear how important a Councillor Code of Conduct is, as our Council had to undergo advanced communication training and contract outside mediation to overcome some contentious issues.

Claresholm Town Council respectfully requests that your ministry tread this path lightly and make sure that consultation with municipalities in Alberta is completed prior to any major changes being made. The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association should be highly involved, and the Town of Claresholm fully supports their efforts. Having a requirement for municipalities to have a Code of Conduct Bylaw in place provides a framework for Council members' behavior and provides each Council direction and guidance for dealing with any contentious issues that may arise. It is imperative that the option of imposing sanctions on Council members continues as necessary to support this process. Claresholm Town Council requests that the Council Code of Conduct Bylaw requirement remains in place.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Yours truly,



Doug MacPherson
Mayor
Town of Claresholm

DM/kk

Cc: Mr. Roger Reid, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)
AUMA Member Municipalities

