November 15, 2018

Ref: 242156

Board
Cariboo Regional District
180 North 3rd Avenue, Suite D
Williams Lake BC V2G 2A4

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent election. As you know, good local government depends on people willing to stand for office and serve their communities. Whether this is your first time as an elected official, or you are returning to office for another term, your contribution to public service is appreciated.

Our government is committed to working with local governments in making life more affordable, improving services people count on, and building a strong, sustainable economy that works better for everyone.

As a former municipal councillor, I recognize the opportunities, challenges and choices elected officials face every day. I fully appreciate that these roles are often difficult, with success determined both by the strength of your organizations and by the relationships elected colleagues build among themselves, with local government staff and with members of the public. Paramount to each local government’s success is also the standard set by each elected official in conducting themselves with honesty and integrity.

As you are forming, I encourage you to review the attached document, Foundational Principles of Responsible Conduct, developed by a working group from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Local Government Management Association (LGMA). The four foundational principles - integrity, accountability, respect, and leadership and collaboration - can be used to guide the conduct of both individual elected officials and the collective council or board.

I also encourage you to explore the Working Group’s Model Code of Conduct that sets out shared principles and standards of conduct to help local councils and boards start developing their own code of conduct. A Companion Guide is available to facilitate a local council or board’s conversations as they go through the process. These materials are available on the UBCM website.

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If you have questions about responsible conduct or other topics of education, training and advice for elected officials and local government staff, I encourage you to contact partner organizations such as the Local Government Leadership Academy, the UBCM and the LGMA. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing can also advise and support local governments to better serve their communities. In this context, I would like to introduce or re-introduce you to Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister, who can be contacted at: Jacqui.Dawes@gov.bc.ca, and Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division, who can be contacted at: Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for your commitment to public service. I look forward to working with you to make life better for all the people of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister

Enclosure
Responsible Conduct

The fundamental principles provide a basis for how local government elected officials should conduct and fulfill their roles and responsibilities, including their relationships with each other, with the public, and with local government elected officials.

Key foundational principles:

1. Respect
2. Accountability
3. Integrity
4. Collaboration

Responsible conduct at all levels is expected and essential to uphold the principles of local government. Elected officials should be held accountable for fulfilling their responsibilities and roles.

The fundamental principles provide a basis for how local government elected officials should conduct and fulfill their roles and responsibilities.

What are foundational principles?

How do the foundational principles influence the conduct of local government elected officials?

Legal Obligations

Principles of Conduct

January 2018
Leadership and Collaboration: an ability to
represent the community in all decision making, and allow
for discussions and feedback.

Integrity: being honest and demonstrating
accountability, an obligation and duty to
listen and consider the opinions and needs of
members.

Accountability an obligation to the
community, its elected and appointed officials or
members, to adopt and implement policies that
are in the best interests of the community, and
be fully accountable for their decision making.

• The working group on responsible conduct is a joint initiative between the local ledanda, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing. The group was formed to undertake reforms and modernize the conduct of local government in Ontario.

• Other activities of the local government include decision making at council/board, and in services and with other elected officials. The group's work together to achieve common goals and responsibilities.

• Government priorities are focused in all local government, the community and stakeholders to
build a strong base for the local government to
accept its role.

• The group is committed to working within the framework of the local government to accept the decisions of the local government and to recognize and respect the decisions of the local government and to recognize and respect the decisions of the local government, including the rights of the local government to make decisions.

• The group is committed to building a strong base for the local government to accept its role.

• Leadership and Collaboration: an ability to
represent the community in all decision making, and allow
for discussions and feedback.

Integrity: being honest and demonstrating
accountability, an obligation and duty to
listen and consider the opinions and needs of
members.

Accountability an obligation to the
community, its elected and appointed officials or
members, to adopt and implement policies that
are in the best interests of the community, and
be fully accountable for their decision making.