

Codes of Conduct and Integrity Commissioners

Every municipality should have a **Code of Conduct** that applies to members of council, local boards and committees.

The Code of Conduct should include a public complaint process. The municipality should appoint an impartial **Integrity Commissioner** to review these complaints.

The Code of Conduct should be:

- Approved by council
- Posted publicly
- Used to train members

There should be **no fee or other barrier** to make a complaint to the Integrity Commissioner.

Integrity Commissioners can be authorized to dismiss complaints that are frivolous or vexatious.



Complaints can be brought to the **Ontario Ombudsman** as a last resort – that is, if the locally-appointed Integrity Commissioner has reviewed the matter or declined to do so, and the complainant is not satisfied.

The Ombudsman's review in such cases will consider whether the local Integrity Commissioner:

- Acted in accordance with relevant legislation
- Considered the issues presented
- Followed a fair practice
- Obtained and considered relevant information
- Provided sufficient reasons to support their decision based on the available evidence

Questions? info@ombudsman.on.ca

Independent Impartial Confidential Free