

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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April 27, 2021

Dear Head of Council,

As you may be aware, the Ontario government is consulting on how to strengthen accountability for municipal council members. We want to ensure that councillors and heads of council maintain a safe and respectful workplace and carry out their duties as elected officials ethically and responsibly. More information on the scope of consultations can be found at [Ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca).

As part of this work, my colleague, Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister for Children and Women's Issues will be seeking input from members of council representing each of Ontario's municipalities through one of two hour-long telephone townhall sessions with municipal representatives from Western Ontario's municipalities on June 8, 2021 at 10:45 AM EDT.

This session will provide participants with the opportunity to share their valuable feedback on:

- what changes or mechanisms are needed to better hold council members accountable for municipal code of conduct violations;
- how to effectively enforce these codes
- whether a broader range of penalties for violations of the codes of conduct are needed; and
- the circumstances in which these potential penalties could be applied.

Please identify one member of your council to participate in the session. Once chosen, the one identified member of your council should register via [Eventbrite](https://eventbrite.com) by Thursday, May 6, 2021. The registered member will receive instructions about how to participate in the session prior to the meeting.

We have also launched an online survey to seek input on ways to strengthen accountability mechanisms for municipal council members. I encourage members of council and municipal staff to provide their input on this important topic through the online survey: [Consultation: Strengthening accountability for municipal council members | Ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca). This online survey will be available until July 15, 2021. Please share this link with your municipal staff.

I hope you will accept this invitation to participate in this session, as we look forward to hearing your feedback on how to strengthen accountability for municipal council members.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c: Clerk and Chief Administrative Officers
Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues
Kate Manson-Smith Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Marie-Lison Fougère, Deputy Minister Responsible for Women's Issues