

Code of Conduct: Accountability and Transparency

**Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation
Board Member Information Session**

April 1, 2021

Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner

BMAHC Accountability

- The Board of Directors of the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation (BMAHC) are appointed at the AGM in which the municipal members have 2/3 votes as per bylaw.
- The BMAHC made the decision to adopt the Town of The Blue Mountains Code of Conduct which sets minimum standards for the behaviour for elected and appointed Members in carrying out their functions so that they may :
 - ▶ 1. Understand the standards of conduct that are expected of them;
 - ▶ 2. Fulfill their duty to act honestly and exercise reasonable care and diligence in the decisions they make as a Board;
 - ▶ 3. Act in a way that enhances public confidence in local government.

Public officials are trustees for the public

- They must:
 - Act with fairness toward all and avoid preferential treatment to any specialized interest group
 - Avoid any interest or activity which is in financial and personal conflict with their official duties
 - Responsibly oversee management of the financial assets
- Facilitate complete, understandable and timely access to information by the public
- Respect one another, staff and the public

Duties of the Integrity Commissioner

- Advice and Recommendations
- Education and Outreach
- Complaint Investigation

Purpose of the Code

- The purpose of the Code rules
- Matter not covered by the Code rules
- Frivolous and vexatious complaints: the “why” versus the “how”

The Role of the IC

- Enforces the Code of Conduct Rules through the application of the Complaint Procedure
- Advice and recommendations
- Maintains Confidentiality regarding all matters that come to her attention with the exception of public reporting
- Informal and Formal Complaints

Conflicts of Interest

- Purpose: To prohibit Board Members from engaging in the decision-making process in relation to matters in which they have a personal, economic (pecuniary) interest
- BMAHC Bylaw #1: conflicts of interest
- Code (non-pecuniary) conflicts

Code Compliance

- Code compliance is not simply following a series of imperative statements
- A Code contravention is only determined after an investigation by the Integrity Commissioner
- Informal resolution is often an effective and educative tool
- Seeking advice from the Integrity Commissioner

Closed Meetings, Confidentiality, Procedural rules

- The BMAHC is governed by MFIPPA and not by the Municipal Act, however the Board has decided to establish an accountability regime that mirrors institutional rules of municipalities
- Confidentiality is a requirement that intersects with access to information
- Procedural rules determine meeting process

Thank you !

Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner

519-599-3131 ext. 425

suzannecraigintegrity@gmail.com