



January 20, 2026

Reference: 189798

Sarbjot Singh Locham

Email: sarbjotlocham@gmail.com

Dear Sarbjot Singh Locham:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 23, 2025, regarding the status of a code of conduct in the City of Delta (City).

I understand from your letter that you have been in contact with the City to voice your concerns about the absence of a code of conduct for its elected officials and are not satisfied with the City's response to your on-going inquiries. I note that you are reaching out to me in my role as the Inspector of Municipalities (Inspector) to request an investigation.

While I appreciate your request for my intervention in this matter, the Province of British Columbia has established a legislative framework for local governments that recognizes they are democratically elected, autonomous, responsible and accountable within their jurisdiction. Local governments depend on elected officials who have the legal authority and responsibility to make decisions on behalf of their communities and are democratically accountable to their citizens for those decisions.

Furthermore, I do not have a role in reviewing or reversing decisions made or actions taken by local governments. The Inspector's primary role is to approve a specific set of local government bylaws and to address issues that may affect the fundamental viability of a local government, or that could have serious consequences across the entire local government system in British Columbia. The situation that you have described is very much a local matter.

As you are likely aware, legislative requirements for codes of conduct came into force in June 2022. Within six months after the first regular council or board meeting following the general local elections, a council must decide whether to adopt or review a code of conduct for the council members. Before making a decision, the council must consider the principles for codes of conduct prescribed by regulation. If the council decides not to adopt or review a code of conduct, they must make the reasoning behind their decision publicly available. If the council decided not to establish or review a code of conduct, they must reconsider that decision before January 1 of the year of the next general local election.

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If you believe that the City has in some manner failed to comply with provincial legislation, or has otherwise acted outside of its authority, you may wish to seek legal counsel to determine any potential remedies available through the courts.

If you have not already done so, you may be interested in reviewing the City's council report dated [May 3, 2023](#), regarding the consideration of adopting a council code of conduct that was further discussed and called to motion at a regular council meeting on May 29, 2023. The meeting's video, agenda (including a link to the council report), and minutes are available on the City's [website](#).

In September 2024 the Union of BC Municipalities and the Local Government Management Association released a discussion paper that aimed to provide information and a shared understanding of the current responsible conduct tools and approaches (including mandatory codes of conduct and integrity commissioners). The Ministry is actively doing work to consider implementing a mandatory, province-wide code of conduct for local elected officials which includes administration and enforcement of the code, and consequences for if an investigation finds a breach of the code of conduct.

I encourage you to follow up with the City if you have any questions about the information provided in the May 3, 2023 council report or to better understand existing policies. You may wish to contact the City's City Clerk, Michelle Jansson by telephone at: 604 946-3223 or by email at: mjansson@delta.ca.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tara Faganello', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division
Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs