



Sarbjot Singh LOCHAM <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Inquiry into Council Code of Conduct

7 messages

Laurie Darcus <LDarcus@delta.ca>

Tue, May 26, 2026 at 2:23 PM

To: "lochamsarbjot@gmail.com" <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Cc: Mayor & Council <Mayor-Council@delta.ca>, City Manager <CityManager@delta.ca>, Hanieh Berg <HBerg@delta.ca>

Good afternoon Mr. Locham

In response to the letter (attached) which you presented to Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer, at the Council Meeting last night, I have provided the summary below related to your questions about Council Code of Conduct. There is a current Provincially driven process for the creation of a Code of Conduct for local governments that is anticipated to be presented to Municipalities after the next Local Government Election in 2026, which would supersede any local government policies and bylaws. A [link](#) to the background on that initiative and the work conducted by the Working Group on Responsible Conduct further describes in detail the initial findings and related guides and resources.

Bill 17 (Code of Conduct) Amendment Act, introduced by the B.C. government, establishes the framework for the development of a province-wide mandatory Code of Conduct for local governments.

The B.C. government introduced Housing and Municipal Affairs Statutes (Code of Conduct) Amendment Act, 2026 - Bill 17 to amend the Community Charter, Local Government Act, Vancouver Charter, Islands Trust Act, and The Cultus Lake Park Act on April 2, 2026. The following is a summary of the changes, according to the province:

- The Province has introduced amendments to enable a province-wide, mandatory code of conduct for municipal and regional district elected officials
- A single provincial code will bring clear complaint, investigation and sanctions processes and end the current patchwork of local codes

Bill 17, which has received First Reading, is focused on establishing a requirement for a local government code of conduct, complaint processes, powers of investigation, grounds for dismissal, confidentiality, reporting, and other processes related to complaints and results, including the types of sanctions that could be imposed.

According to the Union of BC Municipalities, the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs will continue to consult on the specific terms to be included in a code of conduct, aiming to implement the new code of conduct after the local government election this fall, assuming Bill 17 receives Royal Assent or the passing of regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The news release from UBCM can be found [here](#).

Upon the completion of a province-wide Council Code of Conduct, the newly elected Council for the City of Delta will be governed by that code through legislation, and the rules and process will be clearly established.



Laurie Darcus, PhD, MMC, SCMP

Director of Legislative Services| City of Delta

Office: 604-952-3172 Cell 604-230-5501

Email: Ldarcus@delta.ca

The City of Delta acknowledges that we are on the shared, traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the scəwəθən (Tsawwassen), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and other Coast Salish Peoples. We extend our appreciation to these First Nations for the opportunity to enjoy this land together.



Locham Letter May 25, 2026.docx
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Sarbjot Singh LOCHAM <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Wed, May 27, 2026 at 8:08 AM

To: Laurie Darcus <LDarcus@delta.ca>

Cc: Mayor & Council <Mayor-Council@delta.ca>, City Manager <CityManager@delta.ca>, Hanieh Berg <HBerg@delta.ca>

Dear Ms. Laurie Darcus,

Thank you for your response and for providing information regarding the Province's proposed Bill 17 framework and future province-wide Code of Conduct initiative.

I understand Bill 17 was introduced on April 2, 2026, and relates to a future provincial framework anticipated after the 2026 local government election.

My inquiry, however, relates specifically to the Community Charter framework and reconsideration process that existed before January 1, 2026.

As referenced in the **January 20, 2026**, correspondence from the **Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs**, where a council had previously chosen not to establish or review a formal Code of Conduct Bylaw, **the Ministry indicated that reconsideration of that decision was required before January 1 of the year of the next general local election.** The Ministry correspondence also references Delta Council's May 2023 consideration of a council code of conduct, which was discussed and moved at the May 29, 2023, regular council meeting.

Accordingly, could the City please clarify:

1. Whether Delta Council formally reconsidered the adoption or review of a Council Code of Conduct Bylaw before January 1, 2026; and
2. If so, where can the related public meeting records, agenda materials, resolutions, minutes, or published reasons be accessed?

Thank you again for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Sarbjot Singh Locham
604-817-4754
11138 80A Avenue, Delta, BC. V4C1Y5

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Laurie Darcus <LDarcus@delta.ca>

Wed, May 27, 2026 at 9:10 AM

To: Sarbjot Singh LOCHAM <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Cc: Mayor & Council <Mayor-Council@delta.ca>

Good morning Mr. Locham

Please find attached the City of Delta Code of Ethics which was adopted by Council and is in effect until the Province issues a province wide Code of Conduct.

All my best

Laurie Darcus

From: Sarbjot Singh LOCHAM <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Sent: May 27, 2026 8:08 AM

To: Laurie Darcus <LDarcus@delta.ca>

Cc: Mayor & Council <Mayor-Council@delta.ca>; City Manager <CityManager@delta.ca>; Hanieh Berg <HBerg@delta.ca>

Subject: Re: Inquiry into Council Code of Conduct

Warning: This email came from outside the City of Delta. If the sender is not known, please do not open links or attachments. Contact the Service Desk (3215) if unsure of this email.

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 **Code of Ethics.pdf**
160K

Sarbjot Singh LOCHAM <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Thu, May 28, 2026 at 8:08 AM

To: Laurie Darcus <LDarcus@delta.ca>

Cc: Mayor & Council <Mayor-Council@delta.ca>, City Manager <CityManager@delta.ca>, Hanieh Berg <HBerg@delta.ca>

Dear Ms. Laurie Darcus,

Thank you again for providing the **City's current Code of Ethics document**.

For ease of reference, I have **attached the relevant Community Charter Division 8 provisions regarding codes of conduct and reconsideration requirements**.

My inquiry remains focused specifically on whether **the Delta Council formally reconsidered the adoption or review of a Council Code of Conduct framework before January 1, 2026**, as referenced **under section 113.2 of the Community Charter**.

Based on the publicly available records reviewed so far, **I have not been able to locate any Council agenda materials, minutes, resolutions, or published reasons relating to a reconsideration under section 113.2 before January 1, 2026**. My inquiry, therefore, seeks clarification regarding whether such reconsideration occurred and where any related public records may be accessed.

If such reconsideration occurred, could the City **please advise where the related public records, agenda materials, meeting minutes, resolutions, or published reasons may be accessed?**

Thank you again for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Sarbjot Singh Locham

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 **Community Charter Division 8 - Code of Conduct.pdf**
73K

Sarbjot Singh LOCHAM <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 8:00 AM

To: Laurie Darcus <LDarcus@delta.ca>

Cc: Mayor & Council <Mayor-Council@delta.ca>, City Manager <CityManager@delta.ca>, Hanieh Berg <HBerg@delta.ca>

Dear Ms. Laurie Darcus,

I acknowledge receipt of the *Code of Ethics Policy* that was provided *in response to my inquiry*.

However, my request was not for a copy of the policy itself.

My request is for the records demonstrating compliance with the Community Charter requirement that Council reconsidered the adoption of a Code of Conduct Bylaw before January 1, 2026.

To date, I have not received records showing whether and how that reconsideration occurred.

Accordingly, I respectfully request copies of any records relating to that reconsideration process, including:

- Council agenda materials;
- Staff reports or recommendations;
- Council meeting minutes;
- Council resolutions;
- Any recorded decision to adopt, review, defer, reject, or retain an alternative governance framework; and
- Any publicly available reasons supporting the Council's decision.

If no such records exist, I would appreciate written confirmation of that fact.

For clarity, I am not requesting a copy of the City's Code of Ethics Policy. I am requesting the records that demonstrate whether Council complied with the statutory reconsideration requirement and the manner in which that reconsideration was conducted.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarbjot Singh Locham

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Laurie Darcus <LDarcus@delta.ca>

Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 8:41 AM

To: Sarbjot Singh LOCHAM <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Cc: Mayor & Council <Mayor-Council@delta.ca>, City Manager <CityManager@delta.ca>, Hanieh Berg <HBerg@delta.ca>

Mr. Locham

As noted in previous emails, Council adopted the Code of Ethics which is still in effect and will continue until a new Council has been elected this year. At that time a new Provincial Code of Conduct should be available.

I have nothing further to offer at this time.

All my best

Laurie

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Sarbjot Singh LOCHAM <lochamsarbjot@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 2:01 PM

To: Laurie Darcus <LDarcus@delta.ca>

Cc: Mayor & Council <Mayor-Council@delta.ca>, City Manager <CityManager@delta.ca>, Hanieh Berg <HBerg@delta.ca>

Dear Ms. Laurie Darcus,

Thank you for your response and for taking the time to reply to my inquiry.

I acknowledge your comments regarding the City's existing Code of Ethics Policy and the anticipated Provincial Code of Conduct.

I appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Sarbjot Singh Locham

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