City of Vaughan
The City Above Toronto

Integrity and Ethical Decision Making Guide for Members of City Council

**Code of Ethical Conduct
Workshop
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Integrity Commissioner**

Learning Objectives

- Introduce the Ethical Decision Checklist

- Provide an overview of the rules of the Code of Ethical Conduct

- Practice application of the Code of Ethical Conduct rules through the use of case studies

Ethics and Values

- Write down some important values for you on a piece of paper

- How similar (or different) are your values to those of your colleagues

- What are some definitions of "ethics" that come to mind

Ethics: Some definitions

- A set of moral principles and values

- Standards that contain aspects of duty and obligation

- A discipline that deals with what is good and what is bad

Professional Ethics

- ## Code of Conduct

  - – Principles that form the foundation of the way individuals or organization ought to conduct themselves according to a common understanding of duty and obligations

The Law and Ethics

- Is ethical behaviour always legal?

- Is legal behaviour always ethical?

- Does ethics in law go beyond compliance?

Universal Principles of Ethics

- Trustworthiness
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Loyalty
- Compassion
- Fairness

Principles

- ## Trustworthiness
  - – Keeping front and centre your role in serving the community
  - – Avoiding situations and actions that cause the public to question the integrity of City Council

- ## Responsibility
  - – Being accountable for your own actions

Principles

- # Respect
  - – Listening and respecting opinions of others
  - – Focusing comments on an issue and not the person

- # Loyalty
  - – Supporting steadfastly the work and direction of City Council and the City of Vaughan

Principles

- ## Compassion
  - Being conscious of the distress in others and a desire to assist in alleviating that distress
  - Caring about the needs of all individuals

- ## Fairness
  - Acting with impartiality and without bias

Dilemmas

- ## Right v. Wrong - relatively easy
  - Not using public resources for personal gain
  - Treating others with respect

- ## Right v. Right   - more difficult
  - Competing values
  - If your decision serves the public well, but ends up undermining City Council, what do you do?

Ethical Decision-Making Checklist

- What are the Facts?
- What ethical values are involved?
- What are the competing rules to consider (City policies, statutes)
- What are your options?
- Which option best promotes public confidence?
- Which option best reflects your responsibilities as a Member of Vaughan City Council?