



NOVA SCOTIA  
**Municipal Affairs**  
**Office of the Minister**

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February 12, 2025

Eleanor Roulston  
Warden, Municipality of East Hants  
Via Email: [eroulston@easthants.ca](mailto:eroulston@easthants.ca)

Dear Warden Roulston:

Thank you for your letter of January 30, 2025, regarding the model Code of Conduct (Code) and your support of the Municipality of Chester's concerns about the applicability of the Code to Council members who volunteer with community organizations.

Being actively involved with community organizations is integral to the success of such organizations, particularly in smaller communities. I commend all elected officials who support their community groups, which often exist because of their dedicated volunteers.

Section 14(2) of the Code captures the spirit and intent of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* (MCIA), which every Councillor must abide by. The MCIA prohibits Councillors from using their position to further their financial interests, those of their family, and those of any organization in which they have an interest. The Code does not, however, prohibit Council members from volunteering with community groups. Like the MCIA, it simply sets some parameters for how a Councillor participates in the decision-making process when such organizations are involved. Section 14(2) of the Code seeks to prevent a Council member from giving special treatment or advantage to one organization over another, equally deserving organization, due to their personal involvement. The appropriate steps to be taken by a Council member to ensure fairness will depend on the circumstances.

The Code of Conduct working group, which developed the model Code of Conduct, recognized that the framework may evolve over time. As a result, one of their recommendations was to review the Code three years after its implementation. Your concerns have been noted for future consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to express Council's concerns regarding the model Code of Conduct. I appreciate your acknowledgement of the Province's commitment to ensuring accountability and integrity among elected officials and your support of the Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Lohr".

Honourable John A. Lohr  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor, DMA  
PNS-50626/ah