



Municipal Accountability, Transparency and Ethics Assurance Governance and Integrity Best Practices

The following professional development program is available in a half day and full day format. It is based on courses already offered to individual municipalities. A more detailed outline for both is available on request.

Background: Media attention to conflicts of interest, corruption, and whistleblowing do little to enhance public confidence in government and other institutions. With the passage of Bill 130, the Province of Ontario has empowered municipalities in areas such as integrity commissioners, lobbyist registrars, ethics ombudsmen, auditors general, and closed meeting investigators. With little formal experience but much self congratulation about integrity standards, it will be hard for councils to legislate or warrantee morality, especially in the “fishbowl” that is municipal government.

Educational Offering: Come hear experts talk about how to recognize and induce an ethical culture; how to empower and warrantee ethical decision-making; what are effective practices in terms of complaints, investigations, and pulse taking; what works in terms of ethics education, public and stakeholder engagement, reinforcement and effective governance; techniques to measure reputation and risk management; and what are the roles and responsibilities to be played by elected officials, boards, municipal staff and the media.

Likely Attendees: municipal clerks and solicitors; chiefs of administration; strategic planners; privacy officers; community engagement professionals; mayor’s and councillor’s heads of staff; employment equity officers; union negotiation representatives

Topics: codes of ethics; alternatives to codes of conduct; the difference between values, ethics, morality and compliance; administration of lobbyist registries; conflict of interest; post-employment services; supply chain issues; gift giving; confidentiality and rights to privacy; alternatives to adversarial investigation processes; a review of censure and recall mechanisms

Format: A combination of presentations, small working groups, sharing of individual experience.

Proposed Presenters: Properly licensed EthicScan Associates (such David Nitkin, Remy Beauregard, and Jane Garthson) and guests-- integrity commissioners, transparency committee officers; others

Program Size: minimum 6-8; maximum 40

Budget and Tuition: This is a revenue sharing program. The partner provides administration roles including publicity, the venue, refreshments, and travel costs for presenters. EthicScan provides the content, assistance with publicity, and the content. Negotiations on fees after expenses are proposed.

