

## Municipal Integrity Commissioners of Ontario Statement of Principles

As members of the Municipal Integrity Commissioners of Ontario (MICO), we endorse and undertake to promote these attributes and values as we carry out our roles as integrity commissioners in the communities we serve.

We employ the principles of reasonableness, fairness and natural justice to inform the interpretation and application of ethical codifications, so that in any circumstance the principal objective is the enhancement of the public interest.

As independent statutory accountability officers appointed by and reporting to municipal councils and other public bodies, we recognize that our primary role is to foster a culture of healthy ethical behaviour amongst elected and appointed officials.

**We do this** by exercising our responsibilities in a diligent, expert and respectful manner, guided at all times by a considered assessment of what will best serve the public interest.

**We do this** by championing the tenets of local democracy, accountability, transparency, procedural fairness and natural justice.

**We do this** by understanding that our jurisdiction is established by provincial statute, local enactments and judicial decisions.

**We do this** by exercising our authority in a manner that promotes good governance, and effective and equitable solutions.

**We do this** by being articulate, careful, curious, courageous, empathetic, humble, impartial, knowledgeable and timely, whenever there is cause to examine or advise on an issue of ethical responsibility.

**We do this** by exercising restraint and a solution-oriented perspective, favouring teaching opportunities over sanctions.

**We do this** by being collaborative, while protecting the independence of our role.

**And we do this** by making findings on the balance of probabilities, while exercising the judgment of a reasonable person fully informed of relevant facts and circumstances.