



March 17, 2011

ETHICS AND GOOD CONDUCT

New Tools for Municipal Officials and Managers

In order to provide better tools on matters of ethics for elected municipal officials, the UMQ is proud to present our model code of ethics and good behaviour, and to announce the formation of our new Standing Policy Committee on Ethics. We are also holding a web conference with the authors of this model code, and have planned a province-wide education tour.

A model code of ethics

Bill 109, the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act, which became law on December 2, 2010, requires that local municipalities and RCMs in which the warden is elected by universal suffrage must adopt a code of ethics and conduct that applies to elected municipal officials.

To help municipalities deal with this obligation and create a regulatory environment that will be as consistent as possible on ethical issues, the UMQ is presenting our own model code of ethics and conduct for elected municipal officials, as approved at a meeting of the board of directors on February 25. ([To access the text of the code in French, please click here.](#))

This model code is the result of close collaboration and discussion on the part of a multidisciplinary team made up of elected municipal officials, municipal managers and experts on ethics and municipal law who were invited to contribute toward developing a model code in accordance with the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act – one that would also win the support and confidence of UMQ members.

The UMQ hopes that municipalities will institute similar codes of ethics and conduct in order to achieve a certain degree of consistency in the way ethical rules apply to municipal officials and citizens alike throughout Quebec. Once a code is

adopted, the municipality must forward a copy to the regional office of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy. ([To find your regional office, please click here.](#))

Web conference

We invite you to an hour-long discussion with the authors of the proposed UMQ code of ethics.

An ethicist and a lawyer will talk with you about the provisions and procedures involved in developing and adopting a code of ethics and conduct for your municipality.

Based on the model code proposed by the UMQ, this [web conference](#) will help you master the key principles established by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy.

Province-wide education tour

The Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act requires that all elected municipal officials must take part in a professional development program before June 2, 2012.

The UMQ [province-wide professional development tour on ethics and good conduct](#) will be offered more than once in each region of Quebec over the next 12 months. The first sessions will be available this spring, including two sessions the day before the UMQ Annual Convention in Quebec City, directly on location.

The firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, assisted by the Chair of Applied Ethics at the Université de Sherbrooke, will conduct these educational sessions for the UMQ. The educators were chosen by the UMQ through a call for tenders inviting submissions for the development of educational materials and delivery of training sessions. The partnership between Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton and the Chair of Applied Ethics at the Université de Sherbrooke offers the UMQ a combination of expertise and experience which will ensure high quality educational content and the success of the tour throughout the province.

New Ethics Committee

In view of the importance the UMQ attaches to ethical issues, it was announced at the meeting of our board of directors on February 25 that a Standing Policy Committee on Ethics would be created.

This new committee will be chaired by Mayor Lucie F. Roussel of La Prairie, and will take over the role of the multipartite committee on ethics created in December 2009 in response to the Gagné report on ethics in the municipal sector.

To find out more about UMQ initiatives and professional development programs on ethics and conduct, please visit our Ethics and Conduct webpage at www.umq.qc.ca.

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