



# Township of McKellar

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## McKellar Council's Communication Values, Beliefs and Actions

These are difficult times. COVID-19 has tested our patience; our ability to meet and work together and to ensure we are in close communication with our ratepayers. The following is a three-part series on communication:

- ❖ our values and beliefs;
- ❖ our many ways we listen to our community
- ❖ and the various methods in which we inform our community on Council happenings.

### PART 1: MCKELLAR COUNCIL'S FUNDAMENTAL VALUES AND BELIEFS:

- ❖ Council fully understands the fundamental and legal right of free speech for all, as outlined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We fully realize that there are legal and ethical limits to this form of expression. Respecting the right of free speech while respecting and protecting the rights of others it may affect, needs to work hand in hand and bear everyone's responsibility and accountability.
- ❖ Council works hard at being open and transparent.
- ❖ Council is obligated to follow strict procedural regulations as outlined in the Municipal Act dealing with closed meetings, confidentiality, conflict of interest, code of conduct and By-laws.
- ❖ Council believes in a community-development philosophy where the more people you involve in decision-making, the better the decision.
- ❖ Council represents all members of the community.
- ❖ Council makes decisions, after due diligence, that meet the needs and in the best interest of its community.
- ❖ Council speak as a team – even if we do not agree unanimously – once approved by a majority vote of Council, we all abide by the decision.
- ❖ Council offers a variety of ways to ensure that our community is heard.
- ❖ Council has developed numerous ways to inform our community on its factual deliberations.
- ❖ Council expects that all reports, ideas and issues brought forward are evidence – based, truthful and factual and ultimately represents the best interests of the majority of ratepayers.
- ❖ Council believes in continuous improvement, there is always a better way of doing things if you are looking for positive change. New ideas are always welcome.
- ❖ Even with our recent staff shortages, coupled with strict protocols due to COVID-19 and our technical shortcomings, Council has accomplished many initiatives in a short two years. It has been a challenge to achieve many positive aspects of our Action Plan which we developed together to improve the quality of community life in McKellar. Our January 12, 21 2020 Annual Report is a tribute to everyone's hard work and perseverance of which we are very proud.

Respectfully, Your McKellar Council

Mayor Peter Hopkins, Deputy Mayor Morley Haskim, Councillors Mike Kekkonen, Don Carmichael, Marco Ancinelli