



*Guardian of Public Trust*

November 20, 2020

**BRIEFING NOTE:**

Purpose: Information

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee

FROM: Bonnie Riddell, Policy & Research Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Policy Manual Update

**BRIEFING INTENT:**

- To update Commissioners on the EPC policy review project and status of new policies to be developed
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**BACKGROUND:**

- A comprehensive review of the entire EPC's policy manual was undertaken, and all current policies were updated and reformatted.
- In 2019 an internal compliance audit was done and recommendations to address policy gaps was submitted to the Commission. These policies were also developed during the review process.
- Additional policies were identified for development (Whistleblower and Social Media policy) and remain outstanding.

**Overview:**

- The updated policy manual has been uploaded to the EPC website and the "Resource" section of Diligent for Commission use.
- The updates have also been submitted to AAPG, CAPG and Sol. Gen. as these organizations have links to our manual.
- The Whistleblower policy has been placed in abeyance until the City of Edmonton has had the opportunity to review their ABC policy in the areas that

govern conflict of interest, whistleblowing/safe disclosure, harassment and discrimination. (NOTE: this work was placed on hold because of COVID-19 and is scheduled to come back to Council in January 2021).

- Social Media policy development can start with direction and input from the Commission.
- In regards to the Social Media policy there are 2 options:
  - No Commissioner may identify with, nor use social media platforms as either a Commissioner or on behalf of the Commission. (NOTE: this directive would exclude the EPC's official Twitter account that is monitored and administered by staff).
  - Commissioners are allowed to identify as members of the EPC and may message on social media platforms on items relating to the Commission or EPS (events, opinions, announcements, and other related posts).
  - Both the City of Edmonton and EPS have policies and guidelines related to the use of social media by employees and any policy the Commission contemplates will have to align to these directives as well.

...and now on a lighter note – the perils of social media:

