

city of

# Wetaskiwin

## PRESS RELEASE

### City of Wetaskiwin Launches Whistle-blower Program

November 30, 2020

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – The City of Wetaskiwin is launching its whistle-blower program on December 1, 2020 as part of its commitment to operate with the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

The whistle-blower program provides a confidential process for both community members and City employees to report suspected acts of waste and/or wrongdoing involving members of City Council, the City Manager, City employees, and City of Wetaskiwin contractors, suppliers, and agencies. Any person who submits a concern through the whistle-blower program is protected from reprisal and provided procedural fairness for anyone accused of wrongdoing.

“Council has received concerns from staff, residents and business owners over the years, and the City needed a confidential way for legitimate, serious concerns to be brought forward.” said City of Wetaskiwin Mayor Tyler Gandam. “Our community must feel confident that both City Council and City staff are being held accountable.”

Whistle-blower programs in organizations are critical components of effective corporate governance. The City of Wetaskiwin’s Whistle-blower Policy—passed in October 2019 by Council—reflects the City’s ongoing effort to support open, ethical, accountable, and transparent local government.

“City staff need to feel safe in reporting issues they see in the organization. For too long, the City just operated the way it always has and concerns from staff have not been fully heard in the past,” said Sue Howard, Wetaskiwin’s City Manager. “This program will give staff the confidence to report what they believe to be a serious issue within the organization without fear of reprisal. Administration recognizes that a safe and secure workforce will be more efficient and effective in serving our citizens.”

The whistle-blower program is meant for serious concerns such as mismanagement of public funds and unethical conduct. A secure and confidential hotline (1-877-389-2604) and online tool (<https://wetaskiwinwhistleblower.confidenceline.com>) have been set up for anyone wishing to confidentially report their concerns regarding City employees, members of Administration, the City Manager, or City Council. While reporters can remain anonymous, there needs to be sufficient evidence to investigate an accusation which can lead to identifying the individual.

The City has published a permanent, dedicated webpage sharing information about the whistle-blower program at [www.wetaskiwin.ca/whistleblower](http://www.wetaskiwin.ca/whistleblower).

#### Quick Facts:

- Anyone wishing to **submit a serious concern** regarding City employees, members of Administration, the City Manager, or City Council can do so through the City’s whistle-blower program:
  - **Hotline:** 1-877-389-2604



“the hills where peace was made”  
[www.wetaskiwin.ca](http://www.wetaskiwin.ca)

- Online submission: <https://wetaskiwinwhistleblower.confidenceline.com>
- Other concerns—including customer service feedback—can be brought to the City’s attention through a variety of channels, including email ([reception@wetaskiwin.ca](mailto:reception@wetaskiwin.ca)), phone (780.361.4400), or online through the City’s social media (Twitter: @wetaskiwin | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Wetaskiwin](http://www.facebook.com/Wetaskiwin)).
- The City is committed to creating and maintaining a positive corporate culture in which employees and members of the public report acts of waste and/or wrongdoing, in good faith, without fear of reprisal, and in which individuals are held accountable.

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