

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED COUNTIES  
OF PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL  
BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-33

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**A BY-LAW TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY FOR COUNCIL  
AND STAFF OF THE UNITED COUNTIES OF PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL**

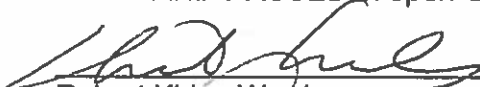
WHEREAS the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25 provides that municipalities require policies to ensure accountability and transparency for the Council and staff of the Municipal Corporation of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell enacts as follows:

1. Definitions:  
**Accountability** is how the Counties will be responsible to its stakeholders for decisions made and policies implemented, as well as its actions and inactions.  
  
**Transparency** is how the Counties actively encourage and foster stakeholder participation and openness in its decision making processes. Additionally, transparency means that the Counties' decision making process is open and clear to the public.
2. Council and staff will promote accountable and transparent municipal governance guided by the following principles:
  - i) Decision-making will be open and transparent.
  - ii) Municipal operations will be conducted in an ethical and accountable manner.
  - iii) Financial resources and physical infrastructure will be managed in an efficient and effective manner.
  - iv) Municipal information will be accessible so that it is consistent with legislative requirements.
  - v) Inquiries, concerns and complaints will be responded to in a timely manner.
  - vi) Financial oversight, service standards and performance reporting and all other accountability documents will be made available and accessible, in language that the public can understand, to increase the opportunity for public involvement in municipal operations.
  - vii) Every new delegation of power or authority will have a corresponding accountability mechanism.
3. The United Counties of Prescott and Russell will make every effort to be accountable and transparent in some of the following ways:
  - i) Hold meetings open to the public;
  - ii) Provide advance publication of Agendas and Reports;
  - iii) Declaration of pecuniary interest is considered at all meetings;
  - iv) Meetings are accessible to the public;
  - v) Abide by the Procedural By-Law to Govern the Proceedings of the Council and Committees of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell;
  - vi) Abide by the Accountability and Transparency Policy Number C-006.

This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon the passing thereof.

**DONE AND PASSED** in open Council this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

  
Robert Kirby, Warden

  
Stéphane P. Parisien, Clerk