

COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT

News Release and Statement from the Mayor and Council





NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR and COUNCIL

Municipality of Calvin

“Mayor and Council Denounce Bad Behaviour and Cyberbullying”

Municipality of Calvin – May 25, 2022 Today, as the Mayor and on behalf of the Municipality of Calvin Council, we are **denouncing** some of the recent bad behaviour from some of our local citizens who have chosen to utilize Facebook, texts, and other social media platforms to publicly cyberbully the Mayor and Council and as a result, all of the constituents of our community. There is no room in today’s society to accept this public behaviour from a few citizens who are utilizing these tools to negatively criticize, shame and cyberbully fellow citizens and this Municipality’s elected and appointed leadership.

"As Mayor and Council, we are elected and appointed to lead, make decisions, maintain and provide municipal services to all citizens of this community in an accountable and transparent way. Every step and decision we make as a Council is for the betterment of this community as a whole, but there should be no acceptance of bullying, negative criticism, and defamation of character for those who stepped up to make this a better place to live," stated Mayor Pennell. "No Council member should be subject to the bad behavior, phone bullying and cyberbullying from a few individuals who feel empowered by their computer to chastise the positive time, effort, and dedication this Council has and continues to make in this community" he added.

Mayor and Council are currently seeking both investigative and legal counsel on the activities of a few individuals who are posting defamatory, degrading, and cyberbullying content on a variety of social media platforms that are circulating



locally. These forms of cyberbullying and bullying by phone are not acceptable and will be addressed by the appropriate authorities.

“It is unfortunate that these few individuals are setting such terrible examples for the rest of the respectful community and displaying behaviour that is neither acceptable nor tolerated. It not only tarnishes this community’s credibility but also sends the wrong messages to our regional municipal partners and those who might consider living or moving to our beautiful community in the future” stated Mayor Pennell.

Some Facts about Cyberbullying:

Cyberbullying examples include:

- Sending mean or threatening emails or text/instant and phone messages
- Posting embarrassing photos of someone online
- **Creating a website to make fun of others**
- Pretending to be someone by using their name

The law in Canada:

Some bullying acts are illegal and offences under the *Criminal Code*. These include:

- Criminal harassment (e.g., texts, phone calls, and/or emails that cause the other person to fear for their safety)
- Assault (e.g., threats or acts of non-consensual force, violence, bodily harm, or destruction of personal property)
- Identity theft/fraud (e.g., creating a fake online profile to ruin someone's reputation)
- Defamatory libel (e.g., spreading rumours about someone)

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