

<p>CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>CLERK'S OFFICE</p>	<p>DATE AFFECTED</p> <p>December 10, 2007</p>	<p>POLICY</p> <p>Accountability & Transparency</p> <p>CD-2007-21</p>
---	---	---

Section 200.47

1. In compliance with Section 270 (1)(5) of the *Municipal Act 2001* ("The Act"), as amended, a municipality shall adopt policies with the manner in which the municipality will try to ensure that it is accountable to the public for its actions, and the manner in which the municipality will try to ensure that its actions are transparent to the public. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the delivery of the municipality's activities and services in accordance with the principles as outlined herein.
2. **Accountability** - The principle that the municipality will be responsible to its stakeholders for decisions made and policies implemented, as well as its actions or inactions.
3. **Transparency** - The principle that the municipality believes in and consistently practices openness in all its activities and decision-making processes, subject only to narrow exceptions respecting confidentiality including those outlined in the *Municipal Act 2001*, the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection & Privacy Act* and the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act*.
4. Council of the City of Niagara Falls and its' staff acknowledges that it is responsible under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, for providing good government and administration with respect to matters within its jurisdiction, in an accountable and transparent manner. The municipality will fulfill this responsibility by:
 - a) communicating and facilitating public access to, and information about, the municipality's programs, decisions and activities, and welcoming participation by the public to ensure that decisions and actions are responsive to the preferences and needs of the residents;
 - b) delivering high quality services to its residents, businesses and other stakeholders by encouraging their understanding of those services and welcoming feedback on those services; and
 - c) promoting the effective and efficient use of the municipality's financial, human, and physical resources.
5. Accountability, transparency and openness are standards of good government that enhance public trust. The principles are achieved through the municipality adopting measures ensuring, to the best of its ability, that all activities and services are undertaken utilizing a process that is open and accessible to its stakeholders. In addition, wherever practical, the municipality will encourage input from its stakeholders throughout the decision making process.