

Head, Clara & Maria Policies and Procedures			
DEPARTMENT: Human Resources			POLICY #: HR-02
POLICY NAME: ALTERNATE WORK SCHEDULE POLICY			
DATE:	REV. DATE: January 2021	APPROVED BY:	PAGE #: 1 of 7

POLICY

In recognition of its commitment to excellence in the provision of service to its ratepayers, The Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria offers several flexible work arrangements to its staff.

PURPOSE & SCOPE

Our primary purpose in providing flexibility in scheduling is to attract and retain employees and other staff whom we value.

We acknowledge that members of the organization have a commitment to their families that does not diminish their equally strong commitment to the performance of their job. We also acknowledge the existence of a disability that requires accommodation has no effect on professional commitment. This acknowledgement requires the Municipality to be as supportive of the professional growth and the opportunities available to those on flexible work arrangements as it would be in the case of those on regular schedules.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENTITLEMENTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY

The Municipality will attempt to accommodate all requests for flexible scheduling, recognizing that the interests of the Municipality, its citizens and other employees will need to be considered in each instance, as well as the interests of the employee participating in the alternate work arrangement.

The Municipality will make reasonable efforts to encourage all members of the Municipal workforce and Council to recognize that flexible scheduling is beneficial both for the organization and for the individual member of the Municipality.

The Municipality will expect persons on alternate work arrangement schedules to be available to the Municipality during unscheduled hours only when absolutely necessary.

The Municipality will inform the employee on an alternate work arrangement promptly if it has any concerns about the way in which the arrangement is working.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENTITLEMENTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL

An employee on an alternate work arrangement is expected to communicate promptly with the organization about any concerns or problems with the arrangement.

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Alternate work arrangement employees remain committed professionals and are expected to carry out their responsibilities to the Municipality in a professional and competent manner even though that obligation may at times conflict with the flexible work arrangement schedule.

It is imperative that individuals on an alternate work arrangement demonstrate a reasonable amount of accommodation in regard to unforeseeable needs of the Municipality. They should be prepared to undertake occasional travel, last-minute work requirements and concentrated periods of work outside the schedule.

PROCEDURES

1) WORK ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE MUNICIPALITY

a) Full-time options

i) Flexible Work Week - Flex-time

A rearrangement of full-time hours so that the regular day's work begins and ends at times different from most others in the workplace.

An employee may be granted flexible hours provided that such arrangement is consistent with the administration or operational requirements of the department in which the employee works, results in no increased cost to the Corporation and is mutually agreed to by the employee and her supervisor.

Employees may bank extra hours worked per day, with the prior approval of the supervisor to a maximum of 40 hours. Hours are banked as time for time.

Extra time worked may be banked only when the period of extra time is a minimum of 30 minutes per occasion.

ii) Compressed Work Week

A type of flex-time arrangement where fewer but longer days are worked with the result that other days are shorter or not scheduled as work days.

The same number of hours are worked each one or two week period but over a reduced number of days. Instead of working 10 - 7 hour days (70 hours per two week period), staff could work 7 – 8 hour days and 2 – 7 hour days..

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b. Reduced-hour options

i. Part-Time Work Weeks - Reduced work schedule

Fewer hours are worked than the number required on a full-time schedule. Pay is reduced accordingly. A reduced work schedule can be structured:

- as fewer hours per day;
- as fewer days per week;
- as fewer weeks per year;

ii. Job-sharing

A regular, continuing arrangement between two employees and the Municipality in which the individuals agree to share the responsibilities and entitlements of a full-time position.

iii. Annualized Hours

A specified number of hours are worked in a year. The employee has the ability to choose within certain boundaries, their days and hours of work, with the provision that they work the specified number of hours per year

2) ELIGIBILITY

All staff in any area of operations may submit a proposal for a flexible work arrangement realizing that some positions will not lend themselves to some of the above options.

A proposed arrangement that can be made without undue hardship to the Municipality, (considering the work of the organization, its service to the public and its obligations to all its ratepayers and other staff) will be approved. Where the flexible arrangement involves reduced work hours, the arrangement will be subject to the following overriding conditions:

- The employee will remain available to the Municipality and to the public in busy times or in emergencies.
- The employee will provide a list of hours during which he or she can easily be contacted.
- A contact person at the Municipal office will be kept aware of how to contact the individual as required at other times.
- An employee on an approved alternate work arrangement may continue the schedule as long as it is necessary or desired. In the event of a demand for alternate work arrangements so unusually high as to create undue hardship for the Municipality, new applicants and employees whose alternate work arrangements have already been

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approved will be expected to come to a cooperative arrangement concerning their schedules.

- If the Municipality considers that the arrangement is not proving satisfactory, the Municipality reserves the right to end a flexible work arrangement and to return the individual to regular scheduling upon two (2) months' notice.

3) IMPLEMENTATION AND SCHEDULING

i) **Flexible Scheduling**

To facilitate the drafting and implementation of flexible work arrangements, the Clerk-Treasurer shall be consulted before any arrangement is finalized. In the instance of the Clerk-Treasurer, Council will be consulted.

The Clerk-Treasurer (or Council) and the employee will work towards facilitating cooperation in the implementation of a flexible work arrangement.

ii) **Submitting a proposal**

A written proposal for a flexible work arrangement should be submitted to the Clerk-Treasurer or Council at least two (2) weeks prior to the proposed starting date for a new arrangement.

The proposal should outline the desired arrangement, the proposed starting date, the ending date (if it is to be for a limited period) and all other information that is relevant.

iii) **Detailed agreement**

Before a flexible work arrangement takes effect, the terms of the arrangement (including the total hours to be worked and compensation to be paid) will be clearly established in writing and agreed to by the employee concerned and the Clerk-Treasurer (or Council in the case of the Clerk-Treasurer).

The written agreement will specify hours to be spent at the office.

iv) **Transition to a reduced work schedule**

When a Municipal employee switches to a reduced work arrangement, there may be a transition period when part of that person's workload might be transferred to others. Where possible, the Clerk-Treasurer will reassign the workload to others within the organization. If this is not possible, the Municipality will consider other alternatives, including the possibility of hiring additional staff.

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v) **Returning to regular schedule**

An individual wishing to resume full-time (in the event of an employee with a disability) or return to regular schedule work must submit a written request to the Clerk-Treasurer.

A request to resume full-time (in the event of an employee with a disability) or return to regular schedule work will be honoured as soon as possible and not later than three (3) months from the date of the request. (The 3-month period is intended to allow the Municipality some flexibility in accommodating the needs of all parties involved.)

vi) **Urgent matters**

When an urgent matter arises at a time when the employee on an alternate work schedule is not in the office, the matter will be handled in the same way as it would be if the individual concerned were on a regular schedule but not in the office.

4) COMPENSATION

i) **Full-time hours**

Any flexible work arrangement under which the employee works the equivalent of full-time hours (flex-time, compressed time, flex-place/telecommuting) will be compensated in the same way as any other full-time position without reduction in salary or benefits.

ii) **Reduced schedule employees: salary**

The Municipality will compensate an employee on a reduced schedule by making a realistic assessment of the compensation that would be received by a comparable employee working on a regular basis. In calculating the salary of the comparable regular schedule employee, the Municipality will consider all factors that are normally relevant to compensation decisions. These factors will include qualifications, abilities, length of tenure and productivity and will be reflected in an hourly rate applied per hour of time worked.

iii) **Reduced schedule employees: benefits**

Reduced schedule employees are entitled to participate in the full range of benefits that are provided as part of the overall compensation package for employees assuming that they meet the criteria as outlined in the current benefits plan.

Municipal-supported opportunities for professional enrichment (such as conferences and courses) are awarded on the basis of the relevance of the program to the

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employee's position. The fact that an employee is on a flexible work arrangement will not affect that person's eligibility for such opportunities.

iv) **Vacation and leave**

Eligibility for leave (paid and unpaid) will not be affected by the fact that an employee is on a flexible work schedule.

Vacation and leave time will accrue for the reduced schedule employee in the same manner as they would for a regular schedule employee except that the rate of accrual will be proportionate to the reduced work schedule.

As vacation and leave time are directly related to time worked, the entitlement should be on a *pro rata* basis.

5) REGULAR REVIEWS

An initial meeting will be arranged to review every new flexible work arrangement three (3) months after its implementation. Regular meetings will be held every six (6) months thereafter or as required.

The meetings will be held between the employee on alternate work arrangement and the Clerk-Treasurer (or Council in the case of the Clerk-Treasurer).

Where the individual is being frequently called upon to work hours outside of, or in excess of, those specified in the flexible work agreement, the problems will be resolved at the review meeting.

Regular review meetings are in addition to routine performance reviews.

6) MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

Periodic meetings, open to all members of the staff (and Council in the event of the Clerk-Treasurer), will be arranged to address issues arising from flexible work arrangements if and as required.

Such meetings will provide an opportunity for the individual on a flexible work schedule to raise any difficulties he may have encountered.

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The meetings will also allow members of the Municipality to review the goals and purposes of the flexible work arrangement policy, and discuss any proposals for changes to the policy.

7) APPEALS

Any decision of the Clerk-Treasurer may be appealed in writing to Council as per our grievance and complaint policy as with any other employee challenge.

A response to an appeal will be given as per our grievance/complaint policy.

8) CONCLUSION

The Council of the Municipality of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria reaffirms its commitment to supporting its employees in meeting needs occasioned by disability, in fulfilling their responsibilities to their families, and meeting the increasing costs of commuting. The Council acknowledges that the need for a flexible work arrangement does not, in any way, reflect upon the individual's diligence and commitment to the performance of his job duties.

This flexible work arrangement policy is intended to benefit the Municipality and all its members. The Municipality expects all members of the workforce to use their best efforts, in good faith, to ensure that those mutual benefits are realized.