

INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

This Report

This annual report has been created to provide a brief overview of work carried out by the Integrity Commissioner (IC) for the period of March 1, 2023, to January 30, 2024.

Commissioner's Role

The IC is a statutory officer whose powers are set out in Section 223.3 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001.

Integrity Commissioner

223.3(1) Without limiting sections 9, 10 and 11, those sections authorize the municipality to appoint an Integrity Commissioner who reports to council and who is responsible for performing in an independent manner the functions assigned by the municipality with respect to,

- (a) the application of the code of conduct for members of council and the code of conduct for members of local boards or of either of them;*
- (b) the application of any procedures, rules and policies of the municipality and local boards governing the ethical behaviour of members of council and of local boards or of either of them; or*
- (c) both of clauses (a) and (b).*

- As IC, I report directly to Council on matters related to the Code of Conduct and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act (MCIA);
- I have the power to undertake investigations into complaints alleging contraventions of the applicable code of conduct as well as the MCIA; and
- My reports are public, and I am permitted to disclose necessary information related to the findings while maintaining confidentiality. I can make recommendations to Council, but only Council can sanction one of its Members.

The IC performs the following duties:

Responding to questions from the public about the Code of Conduct & MCIA	Responding to questions from Council about their obligations under the Code & MCIA	Giving recommendations or advice to Council on policy related to ethical behaviour of members	Providing training for Council, Local Boards and public on Code & MCIA governing ethical behaviour	Conducting impartial inquiries in response to allegations that a member has not followed the Code or MCIA
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Statistics

In the 11 month period, the IC received 6 requests for advice on issues associated with potential pecuniary interests as well as various policy matters. Requests were received in:

- July 2023
- August 2023 (2)
- October 2023
- December 2023
- January 2024

In addition, IC delivered a training session for council on the role of IC, and a session was delivered to the Committee on Adjustments on issues related to the Code of Conduct. IC also provided advice on a policy issue.

Other Considerations

- IC inquiries are costly, and many municipalities have not budgeted for these costs.
- Assessing a complaint (especially a complaint of conflict of interest) is circumstance specific and I cannot provide an immediate response over the phone.
- All requests for advice should be in writing.