

Office of the Integrity Commissioner's Annual Report June 2021 – August 2022

Commissioner's Remarks

I was appointed as the Town of The Blue Mountain's ("the Town") Integrity Commissioner March 2019. It has been 15 years since the Province of Ontario put in place the amendments to the Municipal Act and the Accountability and Transparency section of the Act came into force. Since then there has been a slow start to the building of ethical decision-making regimes. Changes resulting from Bill 68 the *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017* to the *Municipal Act, 2001* passed in May 2017 and have resulted in a broader scope of responsibilities for the Integrity Commissioner, most notably, the inclusion in the Integrity Commissioner's mandate of review and investigation of *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* complaints. These provisions came into effect on March 1, 2019.

Subsection 223.6(1) of the *Municipal Act* states that the Integrity Commissioner shall provide a periodic report to the municipality on his or her activities. This Report covers the Council term from May 2021 to August 19, 2022.

This Office received informal inquiries that related to a vast array of areas that go beyond the mandate of the Office, including but not limited to matters relating to, Council meeting procedural rules, public comment at Council meetings, decisions of the Blue Mountain Attainable Housing Corporation. These matters were beyond my authority to receive or investigate. Given the statutory limitations imposed on the Integrity Commissioner by virtue of the *Municipal Act* and the Town by-law that created this Office, I am unable to resolve such matters.

Code of Conduct Related Inquiries

From Members of Council	From the Public	From staff	Total Inquiries
32	10	6	48

Code of Conduct Complaints

	2021-22
Formal complaints	5
- Disposition	-3 Dismissed with reasons to the parties -1 Report to Council with finding of no contravention 1 Report to Council with finding of contravention with no recommendation of penalty.
Informal complaints	6
- Disposition	2 Negotiated 4 Dismissed
Total Code of Conduct Complaints	11

Code of Conduct Inquires – Non-Code application

Relating to staff from staff	0
Relating to process from staff	0
Relating to staff from public	0
Relating to process from public	10
Total non-Code related	10

Total Inquiries Received – 69¹

Education and Outreach:

- Prepared new Council Member Code Information package after appointment on March 14, 2022.
- Advice and information to Members of Council and Local Boards upon request.

Statement of Expenditures

\$49,991.20 – Integrity Commissioner Services (including remuneration for advice to Members of Council and Council, Investigation of Formal Code Complaints, Facilitation of Informal Complaints and Professional Fees, office supplies).

In conclusion, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Town Clerk, Ms. Corrina Giles, who has assisted me in this reporting period and through this Council term, in navigating the various Town policies and processes in fulfilment of my mandate.

¹ Includes queries to the Office of the Integrity Commissioner Code and non-Code related.

Respectfully submitted,


Suzanne Craig
Integrity Commissioner