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C H A M B E R S

Integrity Commissioner Office
for Niagara Region

MICHAEL L. MAYNARD
Interim Integrity Commissioner
Niagara Region
E-mail: integrity@adr.ca

September 1, 2023

SENT BY EMAIL TO:

Ann-Marie Norio
Clerk – Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca

Re: File No.: IC-26138-0823: Niagara Region - Integrity Commissioner Annual Report - Operating Period August 17, 2022 to August 16, 2023.

Dear Ms. Norio:

Thank you for the opportunity to act as the Integrity Commissioner (or “IC”) for the Region of Niagara (the “Region”) over the past year. In accordance with the terms of the agreement with the Region, and pursuant to section 223.6(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* (or “the Act”), we are providing our annual report for the operating period of August 17, 2022 to August 16, 2023.

As you know, the IC’s role is to help Members of Council (“Members”) ensure that they are performing their duties and functions in accordance with the Region’s Code of Conduct (“the Code”), and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* (“MCIA”). The Integrity Commissioner is available to educate and provide advice to Members on matters governing their ethical behaviour and compliance with the Code and the MCIA.

The Integrity Commissioner is also responsible for receiving, assessing, and investigating appropriate complaints respecting alleged breaches of the Code or the MCIA.

Code of Conduct Complaints

During this operating period, our Office managed eight Code of Conduct complaints. Five of these complaints were filed in 2021 and previously held in abeyance by the Region's prior Integrity Commissioner pursuant to s. 223.8 of the Act. I subsequently terminated these inquiries due to the election moratorium as they had not been completed on Nomination Day and were not re-commenced within six weeks of Voting Day pursuant to the Act. Three complaints were received towards the end of the operating period and are still ongoing.

Requests for Advice

During this operating period, we received and responded to six Requests for Advice. I am pleased that Members have come forward with such requests. I subscribe to the old wisdom that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." I am accordingly always happy to assist with any queries Members may have about their ethical obligations under the Code and/or MCIA.

Education and Training

During this operating period, I presented an education seminar to the Region's Council about the Code of Conduct and the role of the Integrity Commissioner. I also provided an informational bulletin to Council (in August 2022) respecting social media use and its intersection with the Code of Conduct.

Billings

A summary of billing for the year is included in this report as Appendix 1.

Final Comments

I look forward to assisting the Region and its Members in contending with any issues that may arise in connection with the administration of its Code and/or the MCIA in the coming year. It is a pleasure to work with Council Members and staff at the Region.

Yours very truly,



Michael Maynard
Integrity Commissioner

APPENDIX 1Summary of Billing

Billing for the year to date has totalled \$ **20,642.28**, as detailed below.

Invoice Number	Date	Fees	HST	Total
8410	06/10/2022	\$2,555.00	\$332.15	\$2,887.15
8465	08/12/2022	\$5,020.00	\$652.60	\$5,672.60
8501	09/01/2023	\$5,097.50	\$662.68	\$5,760.18
8563	09/03/2023	\$350.00	\$45.50	\$395.50
8652	09/05/2023	\$2,905.00	\$377.65	\$3,282.65
8694	08/06/2023	\$350.00	\$45.50	\$395.50
8721	10/07/2023	\$560.00	\$72.80	\$632.80
8765	09/08/2023	\$1,430.00	\$185.90	\$1,615.90
TOTAL		18,267.50	2,374.78	\$20,642.28