



ADR
C H A M B E R S

Integrity Commissioner Office
for the Township of Wainfleet

EDWARD T. MCDERMOTT
Integrity Commissioner
for Township of Wainfleet
integrity@adr.ca

September 19, 2024

SENT BY EMAIL TO:

Amber Chrastina
Deputy Clerk / Executive Assistant to Mayor and CAO
Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet
Municipal Office
31940 Highway 3
Wainfleet, Ontario L0S 1V0
achrastina@wainfleet.ca

**Re: Township of Wainfleet Integrity Commissioner
Annual Report- IC- 34361-0924 - April 17, 2023- April 16, 2024**

Dear Ms. Chrastina:

Thank you for the opportunity to act as Integrity Commissioner (or "IC") for the Township of Wainfleet over the past year. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement between the Township and ADR Chambers and pursuant to s. 223.6 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, ("MA") we are providing our Annual Report for the sixth operating period of the Agreement covering the period April 17, 2023 – April 16, 2024.

As you know, the IC's role is to help Members of Council ("Members") ensure that they are performing their functions in accordance with the Township's Code of Conduct ("the Code"). The Integrity Commissioner is available to educate and provide advice to Members on matters governing their ethical behavior and compliance with the Code

and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act ("MCIA") in accordance with the provisions of the MA; MCIA and the Code. The Integrity Commissioner is also responsible for receiving, assessing, and investigating appropriate complaints made by Council, Members, and members of the public respecting alleged breaches of the Code (and now the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act ("MCIA")) by Members.

Activities of Integrity Commissioner during Year under Review

Once again, the Township is to be congratulated on its continuing record for now five consecutive years of having no Complaints of contraventions of the Code or MCIA filed with my office. Your continuing efforts to comply with these legislated requirements has helped to contribute towards healthy and progressive relationships between Councillors and with members of the public who you have the responsibility to serve. It also helps to conserve the resources of the Township for other issues of concern to the residents of Wainfleet.

I wish to advise that during the period under review, we were able to schedule and hold a comprehensive in person education session for all Members of Council and Senior Staff which was informative and well received by all. The session provided a forum for discussion relative to potential amendments to the existing Code and Investigation Protocol which were subsequently prepared by staff and submitted to us for review. We also prepared and submitted an Annual Report for the previous year of our service

Cost

The cost to the municipality for these services during the year under review was accordingly limited to the sum of \$3,695.01 plus HST which was somewhat less than the prior year.

You will recall that in my first year of service to the Township I had to deal with a significant Complaint against a Councillor which was upheld. This involved a cost of \$11,330.00. We subsequently held a full educational seminar with Council on May 8, 2019 with all Councillors and senior staff participating following which no further Complaints have been received over some 5 years. I would however caution Council that it would be prudent to budget a reasonable amount for this portfolio on an annual basis to deal with these unknown but ever present potential costs.

Issues to be considered going forward

During the education seminar held in May of this year we outlined various circumstances to be mindful of, including situations involving the operation of the Municipal Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. Councillors had full opportunity to meet with the Integrity Commissioner and question him on these matters.

We also canvassed various issues which should be addressed in order to bring the Code up to date with new legislative requirements and evolving trends.

Summary

It has been a pleasure to assist the Township and its Members of Council (for now six years) in contending with the issues which have arisen in connection with the administration of its Code of Conduct and the MCIA.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. T. McDermott', written in a cursive style.

Edward T. McDermott
Integrity Commissioner for the Township of Wainfleet