

Integrity Commissioner Annual Report 2013-2014

A. Commissioner's Remarks

This is the Annual Report submitted to Parry Sound Town Council for the period covering November 2013 to December 2014.

The Code of Conduct (the "Code") applies to the Mayor and all Members of Council and has been given broad interpretation in accordance with applicable legislation and the intent of Council.

There was 1 formal complaint and 3 informal complaints filed with my Office in the period subject of this Report. During the timeframe of this Report, Ontario municipalities held the 2014 municipal elections. The Town of Parry Sound and several other Ontario municipalities have included a provision in their Codes of Conduct that bars the receipt of any formal complaints after Nomination Day in an election year.

Again in this report, I underscore what I pointed out in my previous Annual Report, that there were instances where matters that were brought to my attention, did not fall squarely within the investigative jurisdiction of the Integrity Commissioner under the Code. In particular, the matters of note that fell outside of my jurisdiction, related to matters concerning Town Board or Committee members. Given the inability to apply the Code rules to serious questions of ethics revolving around Town Boards and Committees, it became clear that a change had to be made to address, among other things, questions of procedural fairness in relation to the process in place for review of the actions of Town Board and Committee members.

Under the current Code of Conduct for Members of Council, the authority of the Integrity Commissioner does not extend to the actions of members of Boards and Committees. However, the Code is premised on the principles that Council is required to identify and resolve situations which might involve a potential misuse of position and authority when they are considering the well-being and interests of the municipality. I was asked by Council to review a matter regarding a Town Board and through my review, I concluded that there was a procedural gap which may be remedied either by including the actions of Board and Committee members under the Council Code of Conduct rules, or the development of process rules and practices to facilitate transparency in decision making and procedural fairness.

Under the leadership of the Mayor and upon recommendation of Town staff, Council amended the Code of Conduct with By-law 2014-6467 (September 2, 2014) to include Local Boards and Committee members.

B. Activities of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner: November 2013 – December 2014

In addition to the 1 Formal Complaint and 3 Informal Complaints, this office received 24 email inquiries and 3 telephone inquiries during the period of this report.

C. Complaints under the Code of Conduct

Office Activities	Nov 2013- Dec2014
Formal Complaints Received:	1
Informal Complaints Received:	3
Total:	4
Inquiries on the application of the Code	
From the public:	19
From Town staff:	4
From Members of Council	4
Total	27
Members of Council: Written opinions on the application of the Code	
Formal opinions received by Members of Council:	4

D. 2013 Statement of Expenditures

November, 2013 – December, 2014	
	\$2,622.93

Respectfully submitted by:

**Suzanne Craig
Integrity Commissioner**