

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Corporate Services
Date	Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Subject	2023 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner

Recommendation

1. That the 2023 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner, dated February 27, 2024, be received.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To present to City Council the 2023 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner.

Key Findings

As an independent and statutory officer reporting directly to City Council, the Integrity Commissioner reports annually on activities undertaken in the previous year. The 2023 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner is included as Attachment-1.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The work of the Integrity Commissioner supports the corporate value of integrity by ensuring that elected and appointed officials are acting in accordance with the [Code of Conduct for Council and Local Boards](#) (Code of Conduct). Public reporting by the Integrity Commissioner aligns with the Foundations theme and lead with accountability objective of the Future Guelph Strategic Plan.

Future Guelph Theme

Foundations

Future Guelph Objectives

Foundations: Lead with accountability

Financial Implications

In 2023, \$21,243.93 was spent on services rendered by the Integrity Commissioner.

Report

City Council appointed Aird & Berlis LLP as the City of Guelph Integrity Commissioner on December 14, 2020. As the City's Integrity Commissioner, Aird & Berlis LLP submits annual reports to City Council that outline the activities they

undertook in the previous calendar year. The 2023 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner is included as Attachment-1.

The Integrity Commissioner reports directly to City Council as a statutory officer under [section 223.3 of the Municipal Act](#). The Integrity Commissioner's work is independent of City staff and their annual reports are not edited or approved by City staff.

Financial Implications

The Integrity Commissioner invoices the City of Guelph based on the time spent responding to inquiries from members of City Council, local boards and Advisory Committees of Council (ACOCs), as well as Code of Conduct complaints filed by individuals.

In December 2021, an Ontario Divisional Court Ruling expanded the jurisdiction of the Integrity Commissioner to include most of the City's ACOCs. This change was outlined in the [2021 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner](#). As a result, costs associated with the Integrity Commissioner's work are expected to increase in the years ahead. In 2021, the services of the Integrity Commissioner cost \$18,902.08. In 2022, costs rose to \$30,997.50. The cost of Integrity Commissioner services in 2023 was \$21,243.93.

Costs for Integrity Commissioner services vary annually based on the number of inquiries the Integrity Commissioner receives.

Consultations and Engagement

None.

Attachments

Attachment-1 2023 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner

Departmental Approval

None.

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