



CONTACT: Janet Leiper
Integrity Commissioner
City of Toronto
jleiper@toronto.ca
416-397-7770

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Following the Rules at City Hall: What Gets Investigated and Why?
How the Integrity Commissioner Complaint Process Works

Toronto, Ontario - August 27, 2010 - A recent report to City Council has prompted interest in how the complaint process works at City Hall.

All Councillors and the Mayor are subject to the Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Council policies. A formal investigation is triggered by a complaint, either by a member of the public or on a reference from Council. All complaints are reviewed to make sure that the Integrity Commissioner's Office has jurisdiction. The Integrity Commissioner does not choose who to investigate.

A complaint about a Councillor's use of expenses is measured against the Councillor Expense Policy which was adopted by Council. If the Councillor breaches the Expense Policy, this may be a violation of the Code of Conduct and become a matter for the Integrity Commissioner. If members of the public think that the Expense Policy should be changed, that would be up to Council to decide.

The timing and processing of Complaints are handled under a Complaint Protocol, which the Integrity Commissioner is bound to follow. The Complaint Protocol ensures that the same set of rules apply to investigations.

During the pre-election period, which began on August 1, 2010 and ends after the election with the first meeting of Council, Council has determined that new complaints may not be received by the Integrity Commissioner. The complaint that led to the recent report to Council by the Integrity

Commissioner was made in May of 2010 and was properly brought to Council.

Links:

The Report to Council:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cc/bgrd/CC52.1.pdf>

The Code of Conduct and the Complaint Protocol:

<http://www.toronto.ca/integrity/integrity-protocols-policies.htm>

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For further information or to schedule an interview please contact Janet Leiper at 416-397-7770 or at jleiper@toronto.ca