

**NOTES FOR A SPEECH
BY THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE DENISE BELLAMY
COMMISSIONER**

**AT THE CLOSING OF THE GOOD GOVERNMENT PHASE OF THE
TORONTO COMPUTER LEASING INQUIRY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004**

For the past three weeks, we have heard presentations in the Good Government Phase of the Inquiry. This Phase was designed to provide me with the insight of experts in municipal government, and with the assistance of those who have given careful consideration to issues that have arisen during the Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry. People from various disciplines with different perspectives were invited to make presentations. Indeed, conflicting views on the same subject were encouraged so as to provide me with the best possible foundation for practical recommendations in my report to the Mayor and Council.

In the last three weeks, I have heard from forty-one individuals, many of whom made presentations as part of a panel. They included the City's Chief Administrative Officer; elected officials, including people who are or were Mayors, City Councillors, or M.P.P.s in Ontario; former provincial deputy ministers; persons who are or were senior employees in governments; academics and procurement specialists; representatives of the media; lobbyists; lawyers and accountants; citizen advocacy groups; the former Provincial Auditor; the Integrity Commissioner, and the Lobbyist Registrar for Ontario; and the federal Ethics Counsellor.

Each of these individuals participated without charging a fee. I would like again to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of them for having donated so generously of their time.

The topics we dealt with fell into the four general categories of conflict of interest, lobbying, procurement, and municipal governance. Within those four broad topics, we

explored the relationships between lobbyists and public office holders; the power and influence of the Mayor; the role of Councillors, City Council and Community Councils; the role of the Chief Administrative Officer and senior staff in municipal government; effective procurement practices; and ethics and conflict of interest policies. We heard about initiatives the City has already undertaken with respect to procurement, ethics and lobbying.

The presentations by these forty-one individuals, together with the excellent research and discussion papers prepared by the Executive Resource Group, materials provided by the City and the other exhibits filed, as well as books and articles that were referenced, have provided me with a wealth of valuable information. I cannot stress enough how significant this Phase has been in assisting me to formulate my thoughts and to prepare my recommendations that will ultimately be made to the Mayor and Council.

As the Good Government Phase comes to an end, I particularly wish to thank my Commission Counsel, David Butt, for his extraordinary skill in moderating every single one of the twenty separate sessions held in the last three weeks. Assisting him in the preparation of the Good Government Phase were Zachary Abella, Heather Hogan and Clita Saldanha, and I want to thank them publicly for all the work they did to ensure that these sessions ran so smoothly. I am also grateful to Andrew Lewis, counsel for the City, for his helpful contributions over the past weeks.

We will now adjourn this Phase. Shortly, I will be making an announcement with respect to whether and when witnesses will be called or recalled to testify at the Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry. In the meantime, I again thank everyone for their participation and their assistance in making this Phase so successful.