



# INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER REPORT FOR ACTION

## Integrity Commissioner Report on Violation of Code of Conduct: then-Mayor Rob Ford

**Date:** September 22, 2015  
**To:** City Council  
**From:** Valerie Jepson, Integrity Commissioner  
**Wards:** All Wards  
**Reference:**

### SUMMARY

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On November 18, 2013, then-Mayor Rob Ford ran through the Council Chamber and collided with then-Councillor Pam McConnell, causing her physical and emotional harm. Councillor McConnell filed this complaint as a way to assert her right to participate in her workplace in a manner that is free from violence, bullying and harassment.

In the attached report, I find that when Councillor Ford ran through the Council Chamber on November 18, 2013 he was acting in a manner that was unnecessarily reckless, lacking in decorum, and contrary to the Code of Conduct for Members of Council (Code of Conduct).

Councillor Ford accepts the findings in the report. To express his regret for his actions and the harm that he caused, he offered to make a payment to an organization of Councillor McConnell's choice. Councillor McConnell was amenable to this resolution and suggested that the funds could be directed to a City-operated program within her ward. I have intentionally refrained from identifying the program in this report to avoid drawing unnecessary attention to it.

In consideration of Councillor Ford's acceptance of the findings and his decision to demonstrate his regret for his actions by making such a payment, I recommend that Council adopt a finding that Councillor Ford's conduct contravened the Code of Conduct and that no further penalty or consequence is warranted.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **The Integrity Commissioner recommends that:**

1. Council adopt a finding that Councillor Ford contravened Articles XI (Conduct at Meetings) and XIV (Discreditable Conduct) for his actions on November 18, 2013 and the harm he caused to Councillor McConnell;
2. Council adopt a finding that no further action be taken in consideration of the apologies previously provided by Councillor Ford and his decision to make a payment to a good cause of Councillor McConnell's choice to further express regret for his actions; and,
3. Council authorize the Integrity Commissioner to transmit the cheque provided by Councillor Ford to the appropriate city division and provide all instructions necessary to ensure that the funds provided are used in the manner proposed by Councillor McConnell.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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This report has no financial impact.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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Council has not previously considered this matter.

## **COMMENTS**

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In July 2014, Councillor McConnell filed a formal complaint alleging that Councillor Rob Ford contravened articles XI (Conduct at Meetings) and XIV (Discreditable Conduct) of the Code of Conduct for Members of Council when he ran through the Council Chamber on November 18, 2013 and during a second interaction at an Executive Committee meeting on March 24, 2014.

The complaint was received and investigated in accordance with the Code of Conduct Complaint Protocol for Members of Council. The attached report outlines the findings, conclusions and the rationale the recommendations set out above.

The report also includes a discussion about two important issues relating to the jurisdiction of the Integrity Commissioner. First, it confirms that the Code of Conduct for Members of Council incorporates and includes a right for members of Council to assert a right to a workplace that is free from violence, bullying and harassment. Second, it confirms a long standing line of authority from Integrity Commissioners that regulation of

the conduct of members of Council while engaged in a Council or committee meeting is within the domain of the Speaker and not the Integrity Commissioner.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Valerie Jepson, Integrity Commissioner

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Integrity Commissioner Report Regarding Conduct of Then-Mayor Rob Ford