



# 2018 Annual Report

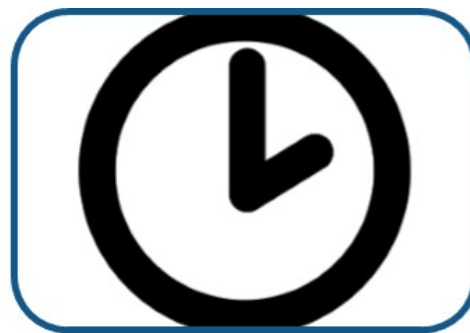
Valerie Jepson

Integrity Commissioner

March 27 and 28, 2019 Council Meeting

# Highlights

- 2018 Priorities
  - Provision of timely advice
  - Completing investigations
  - Election-related advice
  - Policy review regarding the new OIC responsibilities



Providing timely confidential advice to members of Council and local boards about their own situations respecting the applicable Code of Conduct, MCIA and other bylaws and policies governing ethical behaviour.



Providing educational programs and information to members of Council, local boards, City and board staff and the public about the Code of Conduct, MCIA and ethical obligations of elected and appointed officials.



Providing policy recommendations and advice to Council, local boards and City staff.



Investigating complaints about alleged breaches of the codes of conduct and (after March 1, 2019) the MCIA .

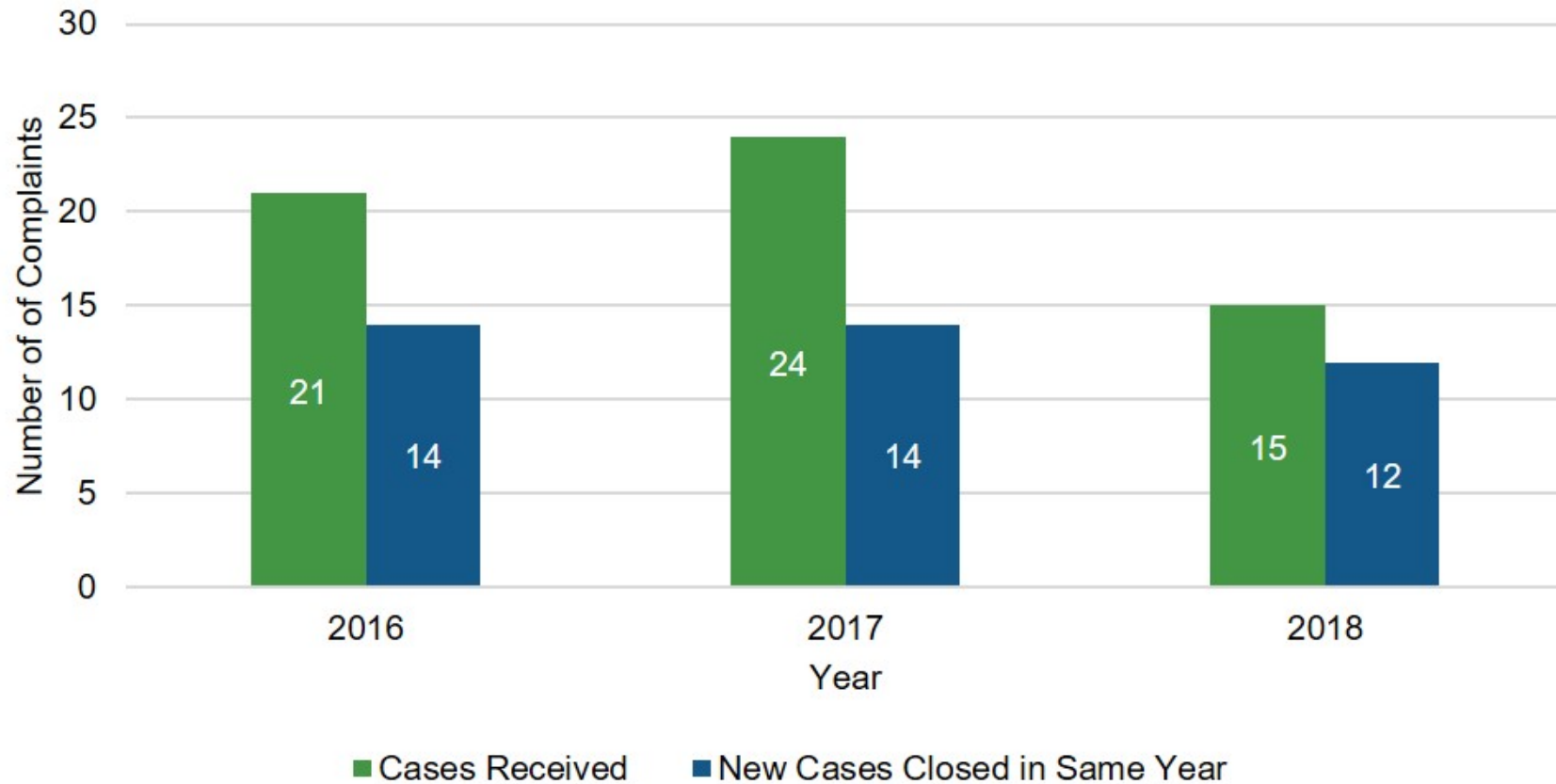
# Term Objectives

1. Provide timely, accurate, consistent and practical responses to requests for advice (policy and compliance) from members of Council and local boards
2. Carry out investigations in a fair and appropriately thorough manner to respond to formal complaints
3. Provide and deliver education and outreach to stakeholder groups
4. Provide resources for all stakeholders that are consistent, accessible, practical and clear
5. Position the OIC to perform all duties in a transparent manner, consistent with the principles of open government, while respecting the secrecy obligations imposed by the COTA
6. Maintain and build on the OIC's reputation as a thought leader in the field of ethics and integrity for elected officials
7. Maintain and build on the OIC's reputation as a key resource within the City for advice, information and guidance about ethics and integrity
8. Build up the OIC's institutional structures for long term sustainability

# Output of the Office

- Responded to 196 requests for advice from members of Council and local boards
  - Responded within two days 87% of the time for members of Council and 78% of the time for members of local boards
- Responded to 427 inquiries from the public, City staff, and the media
- Received 19 new complaints
  - 15 formal complaints and 4 informal complaints
  - 80% of the new formal complaints received were closed in the same year
- Issued six interpretation bulletins
- Reviewed 20 gift disclosure forms

# Formal Complaints Closed in the Year Received



# Time Taken to Close Complaints (tracked since 2015)

Complaint Type	Number of Cases	Average Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Least Number of Days	Most Number of Days
Investigated Complaints	20	277	258	139	514
Dismissed without Investigation	33	50	37	12	244



# Policy Work

- Reviewed the codes of conduct for members of local and adjudicative boards
- Contributed to the development of the Personal Trading Policy for the Toronto Investment Board
- Continued a policy review of Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code (“Accountability Officers”) and the complaint procedures to prepare for upcoming changes to the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* (MCIA).
- Issued six Interpretation Bulletins



# Priorities for the Year Ahead

- Monitor the progress of new obligations under the MCI A and respond accordingly
- Prioritize advice-giving
- Commence policy review requests
- Participate in consultations with respect to improvements to the accountability officer budget review process
- Examine the feasibility of proactive financial disclosure for members of Council
- Prepare the Office for and assist with a successful transition to a new commissioner



# Challenges

- The Accountability Officer budget process must protect and enhance independence, not risk undermining it.
- Reminder that when Council considers reports about misconduct, it is fulfilling a unique and special function, and care must be taken to ensure that the integrity of the OIC is not harmed through this process.

# Guiding Principles

“Our society simply could not function if well-intentioned and qualified people did not make the difficult choice to stand for public office. The public expects those who stand for public office to adhere to high standards of conduct. And, those who stand for public office rightly expect clear guidance and fair oversight.”

“In Toronto, the Office of the Integrity Commissioner has a role to play in meeting these sometimes competing, but often overlapping, expectations. I am hopeful that the information contained in this annual report illustrates how the Office has attempted to meet these expectations in 2018.”

# Thank you

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