

Statement from the Integrity Commissioner: Report on Mayor John Tory, the Toronto Blue Jays and ActiveTO (December 20, 2022)

As required by the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* I am publishing my report on the inquiry I conducted into whether Mayor John Tory contravened the *MCIA* as alleged in an application I received from Adam Chaleff on July 22, 2022.

Mr. Chaleff alleged that Mayor Tory contravened the *MCIA* in connection with City Council's consideration of IE30.19 "Revisiting ActiveTO Interventions on Lake Shore Boulevard West" at its June 15, 2022 meeting. Mr. Chaleff requested that I investigate his allegations and, following that inquiry, I apply to a judge to find Mayor Tory had breached the *MCIA* and to impose a penalty.

I found there were sufficient grounds to investigate the matter and began an inquiry. Due to the municipal election on October 24, 2022, the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* required me to terminate my investigation on August 19, 2022. The statute permits such investigations to be resumed after Voting Day, which I did on October 28, 2022, after I received the required written request to do so.

ActiveTO was the subject of debate at this Council meeting. Prior to the meeting, the President and CEO of the Toronto Blue Jays publicly wrote to Mayor Tory and requested he vote to oppose future road closures. Another member of Council, who opposed ActiveTO road closures, encouraged the Blue Jays to write and helped write the letter for them. The letter drew public attention and Mayor Tory defended the letter being sent.

Mayor Tory's statements and his involvement with the Rogers family, who control Rogers Communications Incorporated (RCI) which owns the Blue Jays MLB franchise, reasonably raised a question as to whether he had a conflict of interest.

My inquiry found there was no evidence of direct or indirect communication, consultation and coordination between the Blue Jays and Mayor Tory. While Mayor Tory had a pecuniary interest in the agenda item as he is a director in Rogers family ownership structure, his interest was "too remote" in this case to need to be declared. This was because my inquiry found ActiveTO road closures had no adverse effect on the Blue Jays' financial interests.

I wish to thank Mr. Chaleff for the comprehensive application he submitted and Mayor Tory and his office for the full cooperation I received in conducting my inquiry.

Based on the evidence I obtained and my analysis of how the law applies to these circumstances, I will not be applying to a judge as Mr. Chaleff requested.

Jonathan Batty
Integrity Commissioner