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2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

ONE JOINT INVESTMENT BOARD

John Mascarin
Aird & Berlis LLP

May 12, 2025

INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

Introduction

Aird & Berlis LLP was originally appointed as Integrity Commissioner for ONE Joint Investment Board (the "Board") pursuant to subsection 223.3(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* on May 19, 2020 and was re-appointed by the Board on May 19, 2021 for an additional five (5) year term.

This is the fifth annual report that we have prepared for the Board. This report encompasses the period from May 30, 2024 to May 12, 2025. Our report sets out an executive summary of our activities undertaken in fulfilling our duties and responsibilities as the Integrity Commissioner.

Complaints/Investigation

This year we have minimal activities to report. Once again we did not conduct any inquiries or investigations against any members of the Board as we did not receive any complaints or applications.

During our five (5) years as Integrity Commissioner, we have not received any complaints for investigation under the Code of Conduct nor any applications for inquiries under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* filed against any member of the Board.

Advice-Giving

With respect to our advice-giving function as Integrity Commissioner, we provided written advice on two (2) occasions relating to potential conflicts of interest arising from the appointment of Board members to another committee, and to a member of the Board accepting a time-limited paid consultant role with an advisory committee.

Revisions to Code of Conduct

The legislative framework that applies to our functions has not been amended (except to recognize the so-called "strong mayor" powers which do not impact the Board). The Board did amend its Code of Conduct with some changes to adopt gender neutral language and to increase the acceptable dollar amounts on the receipt of gifts from \$500 to \$750 – both of which we supported. Educational training for members of the Board was provided early in the term and we did not see the need to provide any further training over the past year.

Proposed Provincial Legislative Changes

Bill 241 had been introduced in the Provincial Legislature on December 12, 2024 but died on the Order Paper on February 12, 2024. Bill 241 purported to strengthen the municipal accountability framework in Ontario by imposing new requirements for provincial-wide uniform codes of conduct; mandatory education and training for Integrity Commissioners and for members of council and local boards; for the involvement of the Ontario Integrity Commissioner; and for the removal from office and disqualification of members of council (but not local boards) for serious contraventions that result in harm to the health, safety or well-being of any person.

On May 1, 2025, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack introduced Bill 9 – the proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 which basically resurrects former Bill 241 with no significant improvements (except for the inclusion of members of local boards also being subject to removal and disqualification). The Backgrounder to Bill 9 provides that,

The government intends to consult on these changes and work with the municipal sector to develop the necessary regulations to support the new framework coming into effect for the new term of councils in 2026.

No Additional Education or Training

We did not see a need for and did not recommend any additional educational or training activities for the Board in 2024. We can certainly provide updated training to the Board and staff should the provincial government implement changes to the municipal accountability framework in 2025 although it is likely that the main changes will likely occur in 2026.

Concluding Remarks

We are privileged to be of service to the Board as both its Integrity Commissioner and Closed Meeting Investigator. We look forward to continue to work with the Board, its members and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

AIRD & BERLIS LLP



John Mascarini

Integrity Commissioner for ONE Joint Investment Board

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