

Office of the
Integrity Commissioner

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October 6, 2021

Mayor & Councillors
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan
42 Burnt Bridge Rd,
Palmer Rapids, ON K0J 2E0

Email: clerk-treasurer@blrtownship.ca

RE: IC Inquiry Regarding Councillor Lidtkie Alleged Contravention of the MCIA

On June 21, 2021, Expertise for Municipalities (“E4m”) as Integrity Commissioner received a request for an inquiry (hereinafter the “Application”) with respect to Trevor Lidtkie (“Councillor Lidtkie”), an elected member of the Township Council (“Council”) for the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan (“BLR”). The Applicant is an elector under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* (the “MCIA”) and was therefore entitled to make an Application for an inquiry under section 223.4.1 of the *Municipal Act*. The Applicant declared that the Application was made within six (6) weeks of the Applicant becoming aware of the alleged contravention.

In the Application, the Applicant, alleged that Councillor Lidtkie contravened section 5.2 of the *MCIA* when he as a Councillor used his position to promote his personal business and advocate (publicly and otherwise) that BLR use his business instead of other service providers.

More specifically, it was alleged that Councillor Lidtkie knowingly acted contrary to the *MCIA* when he:

- threatened a BLR employee with reprisal if they did not procure his services for vehicle maintenance and excavating;
- at Council meetings questioned decisions of department heads regarding any vehicle service expense and further promoted his own business;
- acted in a unilateral way to demonstrate that department heads were unfit; and
- publicly campaigned that BLR employees were attempting to cover up financial mismanagement.

We have conducted an inquiry and we considered:

- a. Whether Councillor Lidtkie had a pecuniary interest in vehicle service/maintenance and/or road construction (or other related road work) matters, which were the subject of invoices considered at Council meetings;
- b. Whether Councillor Lidtkie influenced or attempted to influence municipal officers or employees for the gain of his private business;
- c. Whether Councillor Lidtkie properly declared his prohibited pecuniary interests;
- d. Whether Councillor Lidtkie's pecuniary interest was excepted under section 4 of the *MCIA*;
- e. Whether Councillor Lidtkie used his office to attempt to influence a matter being considered by an officer or employee of the Municipality; and
- f. Whether to make an Application to Court for breach of the *MCIA*.

We found that Councillor Lidtkie contravened the *MCIA*. This is the second inquiry related to Councillor Lidtkie contravening the *MCIA* and we will also be taking this matter to court. To be clear, this matter and the previous finding of breach will be taken to court with one application only and not two separate applications.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peggy Young-Lovelace
Director/Independent Consultant