

What is an Integrity Commissioner?

An Integrity Commissioner is an independent and impartial accountability officer appointed by a municipality to ensure that local government functions in a transparent, fair, and ethical way. Municipalities in Ontario are required to provide Integrity Commissioner services for their councils and local boards.

Core Responsibilities

Integrity Commissioners generally:

- Administer and enforce the municipal Code of Conduct for Council and local boards.
- Provide impartial advice to members of Council and local boards regarding ethical obligations, including conflicts of interest and proper conduct.
- Receive, review, and investigate complaints alleging breaches of the Code of Conduct or the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act (MClA).
- Report findings and recommendations to Council, including publishing public reports to ensure transparency.
- Provide education and support to Council and local board members on ethical standards and good governance practices.

Why Do Municipalities Have Integrity Commissioners?

Integrity Commissioners help promote:

- **Accountability:** Making sure elected officials and local board members uphold ethical and legislative standards.
- **Transparency:** Public reporting fosters confidence and trust in municipal decision-making.
- **Fairness:** Offering a neutral, expert process for reviewing conduct concerns.
- **Good governance:** Assisting councils and local board members to prevent issues through advice and education.

Ontario's Ombudsman stresses that municipal governments must function in an "accountable, transparent and fair" manner, and the municipal obligation for Integrity Commissioner services endorses these principles.

How the Complaint Process Works

1. Informal Complaint Process (Optional)

We recommend residents attempt to resolve issues informally first. This might involve:

- Advising the Council member directly that their behaviour might violate the Code of Conduct.

- Requesting that the behaviour cease.
- Keeping written records of incidents.

The Integrity Commissioner may participate in informal resolution if both parties consent.

2. Formal Complaint Process

If informal steps do not resolve the concern—or if the issue is serious—a formal complaint can be submitted.

A formal complaint generally must include:

- Your name and contact information
- Name of the involved council or board member
- Details of the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct or MCIA
- Supporting facts, dates, and witnesses

Once received, the Integrity Commissioner will:

1. Perform an intake review to assess if the complaint is within their mandate.
2. Determine if an investigation is necessary.
3. Perform an investigation if appropriate—review evidence, interview parties, and so on.
4. Submit a public report to Council including findings and recommendations.

How to Contact the Municipality of Red Lake's Integrity Commissioner

- **Email:**
- **Phone:**
- **Mailing Address:**