

**Annual Report
of the
Integrity Commissioner
for
The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie**

(Covering the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024)

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Background

On May 1, 2018, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, appointed Antoinette Blunt, President, Ironside Consulting Services Inc. as the City's first Integrity Commissioner. The period of appointment was from May 1, 2018, until December 31, 2020. This appointment was extended by mutual agreement of the parties, on December 14, 2020, until March 31, 2023. This appointment was further extended by mutual agreement of the parties, on March 20, 2023, until July 31, 2023.

On May 1, 2023, responded to RFP, File: 2023CRP-CLK-01-P, for a five-year term, commencing August 1, 2023, and was the successful proponent. As such, the contract was extended until July 31, 2028.

This report represents the services provided from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

This report is being submitted in accordance with section 223.6 of the Municipal Act.

Request for Advice

A request for advice was made by Councillor Kinach, regarding potential violation provisions governing ethical behaviour. A report was provided to Council dated April 4, 2024. It is noted that there were two requests for information from members of the public during the year that were not deemed as advice.

Integrity Commissioner Investigation

There was a request for investigation from a member of the public against Mayor Shoemaker and Councillor Vezeau-Allen for the same matter involving a potential violation of the Code of Conduct. The Integrity Commissioner determined a potential conflict of interest in the matter and as such, contracted the services of Mr. John Hart of Ritchie Ketcheson Hart & Biggart, to undertake this investigation. Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart presented a report of his investigation to Council on August 12, 2024.

Expenditures During Period and Total Since Appointment

The cost for services rendered for the period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, was \$8,422.74.

The total cost for services rendered since date of initial appointment in 2018 is \$21,899.00.