

## **Town of Collingwood Judicial Inquiry**

### **AFFIDAVIT OF DOUG GARBUTT**

**I, Doug Garbutt, of the Town of Collingwood in the Province of Ontario, MAKE OATH AND SAY:**

1. I have knowledge of the matters contained in this affidavit. Where my knowledge is based on information and belief, I have identified the source of the information and belief and in all cases believe it to be true.

#### **Background**

2. I am a former Collingwood Mayor and Town Councillor. In 2010-2012, I was a board member of Collingwood Utility Services Corp, Collus Solutions, Collus Energy and the Collingwood Public Utilities Service Board.

#### **2010 Strategic Planning Session and EDA Conference**

3. I recall attending a Collus strategic planning session in January 2010. As part of the session, an outside consultant, Mary Pearson, led a discussion during which the participants discussed the future of Collus. I do not recall the details of that discussion or whether a potential sale was raised.
4. I also recall attending a September 2010 retreat for the Georgian Bay District of the Electricity Distributors Association. The retreat was attended by representatives from various LDCs, including Collus. One of the presentations focused on what the provincial government might do with LDCs in the future, including the possibility of forced consolidation. I recall speaking with Ed Houghton following the presentation and saying that Collus should consider its options to avoid an unwanted merger or amalgamation. Mr. Houghton has told me on multiple occasions that I told him during this conversation that it was time to "fish or cut bait". I do not recall if I said those specific words, but that was the general thrust of what I suggested.

#### **Collus Sale and Strategic Partnership Task Team**

5. I recall first learning that Collus was considering proceeding with a sale at a board meeting. I believe the meeting took place in the Spring of 2011, but it may have been the July 8, 2011 board meeting.
6. I was a member of the Strategic Partnership Task Team (the "STT") and attended meetings regarding the RFP. I recall that Dean Muncaster, Ed Houghton and David McFadden effectively took the lead at these discussions as they were the most knowledgeable. Decisions about the RFP were made by consensus after discussion.
7. I recall that there were two main drivers behind the decision to sell 50% of Collus. First, there was a desire to get ahead of any potential forced consolidation. Second, Collus also wanted to maintain a level of control that would allow the company to continue to provide a revenue stream to the Town of Collingwood and ensure that Collus employees and operation centres stayed in Collingwood.

- 8. With respect to scoring the RFP, my recollection is that I filled out a sheet after listening to bidder presentations in September 2011. However, I have reviewed Chapters 5.4 and 5.9 of the Foundation Document, which indicate the RFP was scored at STT meetings on November 23, 2011 and November 28, 2011. I have no reason to dispute the accuracy of these chapters or the documents referenced in the chapters.
- 9. I recall that the RFP was for a 50% sale of Collus Power. I do not recall being involved in discussions about selling the holding company.

**Bonus Payments**

- 10. I did not receive a bonus of \$7,500 or any other amount from the Collus share sale. I was never offered a bonus related to the Collus share sale. I was paid my regular *per diem* for attending meetings, including STT meetings. I did not know that Collus employees received a bonus for the Collus share sale until reviewing the Foundation Document.

**Paul Bonwick**

- 11. Paul Bonwick was a councillor when I served as Mayor of Collingwood from 1994 to 1997.
- 12. I know Mr. Bonwick socially. I am friends with Mr. Bonwick's brother. My wife used to work with Mr. Bonwick's brother's wife.
- 13. During the RFP process, I was not aware that Mr. Bonwick had any involvement in RFP or the Collus share sale, or that he was working with PowerStream. Mr. Bonwick's involvement was not disclosed to me as a member of the Strategic Task Team or as a board member. If I had known, I would have inquired why he was involved to better understand his role.
- 14. I did not provide Mr. Bonwick with any information pertaining to the discussions of the Strategic Partnership Task Team or in respect of the RFP.

SWORN BEFORE ME at the town of collingwood  
in the Province of ontario on  
June 11, 2019

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner for Taking Affidavits  
(or as may be)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Garbutt