Office of the Integrity Commissioner

Ethical Government in Ontario

Collingwood Judicial Inquiry ★ November 28, 2019

Ontario Legislation

Members' Integrity Act, 1994

· Ethical obligations & financial disclosure for Members of Provincial Parliament

Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006

- Conflict of Interest Rules and Political Activity Restrictions for all public servants, including ministers' staff
- Establishes Ethics Executive concept, with role of Integrity Commissioner as Ethics Executive for ministers' staff, the Secretary of the Cabinet, and the heads of public bodies
- Disclosure of Wrongdoing Framework

Lobbyists Registration Act, 1998

• Lobbyists cannot place public office holders in a real or potential conflict of interest (uses Members' Integrity Act)

Cabinet Ministers' and Opposition Leaders' Expenses Review and Accountability Act, 2002

Public Sector Expenses Review Act, 2009

• Expenses review of ministers and Opposition leaders, as well as senior employees and appointees of agencies

What is a conflict of interest?

Private Interests vs. Public Duties

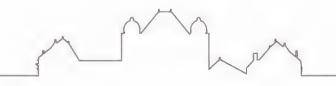
- Conflict of interest
- Furthering private interest
- Acceptance of gifts
- Improper influence
- Improper use of inside or confidential information

For public servants, including ministers' staff, the Conflict of Interest Rules also prohibit giving preferential treatment or the appearance of preferential treatment.



Actual, Potential & Perceived Conflict of Interest

- Potential or perceived conflict of interest is not part of rules for MPPs, but still a consideration in advice-giving.
- Conflict of Interest Rules for public servants includes
 - Potential conflict of interest (PSOA, section 65(5)a)
 - Requirement to "endeavour to avoid creating the appearance of preferential treatment" (O. Regs. 381/07 & 382/07, section 6(2))
- For lobbyists, the restriction covers both a real or potential conflict of interest.



Office of the Integrity Commissioner

Telephone: 416.314.8983

www.oico.on.ca

Twitter: @ON_Integrity