



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

Committee: Combined Committee of the Whole – Administration & Finance – Public Works, Environmental Services & Facilities

Date: August 8, 2022

Department: Administration

Topic: Joint Compliance Audit Committee Appointment

Purpose: To recommend appointment of a Joint Compliance Audit Committee in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act.

Background: In 2010, the appointment of a Compliance Audit Committee was made mandatory through changes to the *Municipal Elections Act*. The Committee is responsible for reviewing and making decisions on applications for municipal election campaign finance compliance audits by electors and on reports from the participating clerks with respect to apparent contraventions of contribution limits. Ideal candidates are familiar with legal and financial requirements of municipal election candidates and registered third party advertisers.

Members of the Committee shall serve the same term of office as the Council that takes office following a regular municipal election. Each new Committee shall be appointed before October 1st of an election year.

An elector, who is entitled to vote in an election and believes on reasonable grounds that a candidate or a registered third party has contravened a provision of the Municipal Elections Act relating to election campaign finances, may apply for a compliance audit of the candidate's or the registered third party's campaign finances. The Clerk shall also submit requests for review with respect to any contributor who appears to have contravened any of the contribution limits to a candidate's election campaign or to a registered third party's election campaign.

The Clerks of Leeds and Grenville support a continued joint approach to pool resources and to ensure qualified appointees and a single Joint Compliance Audit Committee has been appointed by all municipalities in Leeds and Grenville since 2010. Advertising for members has been completed and qualified individuals selected. To streamline efforts in administering required Compliance Audit Committee meetings, local Clerks have selected the County Clerk to act as the secretary for the Committee.

Policy Implications: The appointment of a Compliance Audit Committee is required by the *Municipal Elections Act*.

Financial Considerations: Appointed members in good standing will be provided a \$100 annual honorarium. This cost will be shared amongst all participating municipalities. Additional compensation may be provided to members if called upon, depending on the compensation policies of the municipality requiring their services.

Recommendation: That Committee recommends that Council pass a bylaw to appoint the following members to the Compliance Audit Committee for the term of November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2026: Andy Brown, Mel Campbell, John Dickson and Glenn Mackey; and adopt the terms of reference



Clerk



CAO