

# Ancaster News

## Clark calls for new investigation on leaks about integrity commissioner

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Byline: Kevin Werner

Stoney Creek councillor Brad Clark says the leaked information about the possible new integrity commissioner to the media continues a culture of "bad behavior" within city government and should be investigated by the new integrity commissioner.

"It puts Hamilton in a bad light financially, legally and morally," says the chair of the audit and administration committee. "I think there should be an investigation."

The accountability and transparency committee last week approved after an in-camera meeting a recommendation to refer Windsor's integrity commissioner Earl Basse as the top candidate for Hamilton's position. At the committee was David Broom, Joanna Chapman, Ted Charuk, Denise O'Connor and councillors Terry Whitehead and Scott Duvall. Eisenberger refused to comment on the selection at the time, saying that Hamiltonians "will be pleased with the candidate that is being recommended."

The selection committee, composed of Eisenberger, Chapman, Charuk and Broom, sifted through about 70 applications since this summer to make their final selection.

But this week Basse's name was publicly revealed as the top candidate.

Basse, a former RCMP officer, and former mayor for the District of Sechelt, British Columbia, as well as, the manager of investigations for the Vancouver Stock Exchange, did not return a phone call seeking comment at press time.

"It's ironic that the information about the integrity commissioner was leaked," said Clark, who had been a member of the accountability and transparency committee.

"This culture in Hamilton (about leaking sensitive information) has got to change," said Clark. "I hope the new integrity commissioner will educate councillors and staff about their responsibilities to the corporation."

Clark was the first city councillor to be investigated under the new integrity commissioner bylaw. Clark asked the integrity commissioner to conduct the investigation. He resigned from the accountability and transparency committee while under investigation. The interim commissioner, **Toronto lawyer George Rust D'Eye**, in his report, admonished Clark for releasing information to the media about Eisenberger's conversation with another member of the media as politically motivated.

But during the nearly year-long investigation on the councillor, information about Clark "was leaked 16 times to the public."

During this term of council Stoney Creek councillor Dave Mitchell, downtown councillor Bernie Morelli and Eisenberger have, along with Clark, been subjected to investigations.

During his campaign for his Stoney Creek council seat, the former Ontario cabinet minister lamented the lack of accountability at city hall, and has, along with Eisenberger, pushed to reform how councillors and city officials conduct themselves.

Councillors have approved the creation of an integrity commissioner, a revised code of conduct, and the accountability committee is now looking to craft a lobbyist registry.

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