

## Mississauga city council approve code of conduct; Prohibits councillors and mayor from getting preferential treatment for family members in dealings with city

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Mississauga city council has formally approved a code of conduct prohibiting councillors and the mayor from getting preferential treatment for family members in their dealings with the city.

Councillors also appointed the Toronto lawyer who investigated Hamilton mayor Fred Eisenberger for leaking confidential information from a city council meeting to reporters as its first integrity commissioner.

The code of conduct, which comes into force Dec. 1, when the next council takes office, comes in the midst of a judicial inquiry into allegations Mayor Hazel McCallion acted improperly by promoting a land deal in which her son was involved.

The 18-section code covers several areas, banning councillors from using city property for personal use, running corporations that have dealings with the city and releasing confidential information.

But the rule that has garnered the most attention is the first one, which stipulates that the mayor and councillors cannot do anything that would appear to grant favours to family members or organizations associated with them.

It's not clear whether the new code would explicitly preclude actions such as those taken by Ms. McCallion in the case now before the inquiry: while the inquiry has heard that she pressured land owners to sell to her son's company and attended meetings with his shareholders, she has maintained that she does such things for other developers if she supports their projects and that she didn't grant her son any special treatment.

Peter McCallion's company was attempting to build a hotel and convention centre near city hall. The deal ultimately collapsed.

The inquiry will not deliver its findings for at least two months. It may make additional recommendations on municipal conflict-of-interest rules.

City council named **George Rust-D'Eye** as interim integrity commissioner. He will hold the position for a year while the city goes through the process of hiring someone for a longer term.

Mr. Rust-D'Eye has previously served in a similar role for the City of Hamilton. In that capacity, he investigated a 2007 incident in which Mr. Eisenberger discussed the dismissal of a top city

staffer with a newspaper reporter in an off-the-record interview. He found the mayor did not violate the city's code of conduct because his conversation with the reporter was meant to uphold the city's interests by providing context to the dismissal. He did, however, reprimand a city councillor for leaking a tape recording of the conversation to the media, arguing that the leak was politically motivated.

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