

# Mississauga News

## What's the point?

Thu Jan 27 2011  
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How much integrity can an integrity commissioner demand if those who are integral to the integrity of his mandate refuse to answer integral questions?

Hard to follow? So is the rationale of city councillors who have refused to cooperate with **George Rust-D'Eye**, the City of Mississauga's recently hired integrity commissioner.

Rust-D'Eye, who just released his findings on City Council's latest hiccup, worries that two leaked communications from City Manager Janice Baker - one marked confidential, one not - to city councillors indicate a "serious systemic problem" at City Hall.

But, while Rust-D'Eye is being paid handsomely for his insight and efforts at \$600 per hour, residents didn't need an integrity commissioner to point out the obvious: City Council is a quagmire of not-so-hidden agendas and bitter rivalry that is affecting its ability to govern effectively.

Most indicative of the brand of politics being practiced in Council Chambers is the outright refusal by some councillors to answer two simple questions asked by the integrity commissioner: Did you send either of the two memos or do you know who did?

Simple questions. Confidence-shattering responses.

Councillors George Carlson and Nando Iannicca declined to answer. Sue McFadden danced around his questions before reluctantly responding. Carlson questioned the integrity commissioner's right to investigate the matter.

Council unanimously hired an integrity commissioner to provide guidance on murky issues, yet at least three of its members seem intent on erecting roadblocks that will prevent him from doing his job.

What message do their actions send to residents still reeling from a multi-million dollar bill for a judicial inquiry, a dirty municipal election and a ticket scandal that would have seen taxpayers pick up a \$10,000 tab for councillors to attend a birthday party?

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