

Toronto Star

Citizens have a right to know; Councillor urges end to MissiLeaks probe, Jan. 27

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Illustrations: Letter writer thinks Mississauga Integrity Commissioner George Rust-D'Eye should be investigating why memo was confidential.

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Mississauga councillors and staff got caught with their hand in the cookie jar. Now the city of Mississauga is spending taxpayers' money to investigate how those taxpayers learned that the city was planning to spend almost \$12,000 of their money on tickets to Hazel McCallion's birthday party. The only justification for marking civic correspondence "confidential" is if that document has significant security, economic or personal implications. I don't think "politically embarrassing" would fit into those criteria.

Integrity Commissioner **George Rust-D'Eye** should not be investigating where the leak came from. Instead, he should be investigating why the memo cancelling the ticket offer was marked confidential, and he should be establishing guidelines for confidential correspondence. Elected officials and municipal staff work for the citizens, not vice versa. Citizens have a right to know and government officials have a responsibility to not impede that right.

Michael Farrell, Oakville

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