

# National Post

## Starr cleared of conflict of interest allegations

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Illustrations: Aaron Lynett, National Post / Two Mississauga councillors encouraged the integrity commissioner to investigate Councillor Ron Starr in light of his daughter's business dealings.;

Councillor Ron Starr has not run afoul of Mississauga's code of conduct by way of his daughter's business dealings, the city's integrity watchdog concluded in a letter distributed to all of council this week.

In his three-page memo, integrity commissioner **George Rust-D'Eye** noted "there is no evidence, or even a suggestion" that Mr. Starr has contravened the code or the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. Mr. Rust-D'Eye says a resident requested a "preventative investigation" after a couple of councillors warned Mr. Starr may become entangled in conflict issues as a result of his daughter's business activities. Michelle Starr, who runs a local development consulting firm formerly headed by her father, sent city staff a business solicitation letter shortly after Mr. Starr's election in Ward 6.

"A member of a council has the legal right to continue to engage in business while a member of the council, and to have his or her 'children' do the same -so long as there is full compliance with applicable law, including the municipality's code of conduct and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act," **Mr. Rust-D'Eye** wrote in his memo.

"[It] appears the other two councillors' previous comments were a little premature," Mr. Starr said Friday, referring to councillors Sue McFadden and George Carlson. Though neither suggested Mr. Starr had broken any rules, both warned that in light of his daughter's business overtures, he may end up having to declare a conflict on a huge number of development files.

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