

**Office of the Integrity Commissioner’s Annual Report
July 1 2025– June 1, 2026**

Commissioner’s Remarks

This report covers the period from July 2025 to June 2026.

Subsection 223.6(1) of the *Municipal Act* states that if the Integrity Commissioner provides a periodic report to the municipality on his or her activities, the Commissioner may summarize advice he or she has given but shall not disclose confidential information that could identify a person concerned.

During the period covered by this Annual Report, I have received 1 Formal Complaint. At the writing of this Annual Report, the Formal Complaint Investigation Report is scheduled to be submitted the June 15, 2026 upcoming meeting of Council for consideration and decision on recommended sanctions. I set out below, the reporting of activities of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner in fulfilment of my statutory role.

Code of Conduct General Inquiries:

	From Members of Council	From the Public	From staff	Total Inquiries
2025-26	2	1	1	4

Code of Conduct Complaints

	July 1, 2025 – June 1, 2026
Formal complaints - Disposition	1 Complaint allegations- sustained
Total Code of Conduct Complaints	1

Bill 9 and the Municipality Accountability Act, 2026

With Bill 9, the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*, the Province was proposing to strengthen accountability by creating mechanisms of enforcement to allow municipal councils the ability to remove members who commit egregious breaches of the Code of Conduct, as well as introducing enhanced duties for the Provincial Integrity Commissioner.

The Bill passed third reading at Queen's Park on May 26, 2026 and is on its way to becoming law. The Bill:

- seeks to expand the application of municipal policies related to municipal accountability regimes with respect to *Codes of Conduct for Members of Council*, to include the removal of a member in exceptional circumstances where there has been an egregious breach of those rules.
- would enable the creation of a standard municipal code of conduct and code investigation process in a protocol, with the intent of creating consistency across all Ontario municipalities.
- would create a role for the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, to provide oversight of municipal integrity commissioners, including providing training to municipal integrity commissioners and training to members of council.
- proposes to establish a mechanism to permit the municipality to allow the Integrity Commissioner to recommend the removal and disqualification of members of council and certain local boards, for a period of four years for the most serious code of conduct violations. This mechanism would include Council's receipt of a concurring report from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, and a unanimous vote of council on that report. If there is a unanimous vote, this would have Council decide to remove the Member from office and the Member would be ineligible for re-election (or to sit on a local board) in the municipality for a period of four years.

2026 Municipal Election:

In accordance with the Seguin Township Code of Conduct (the "Code"), Code complaints will be investigated in accordance with the Integrity Commissioner Inquiry Protocol (the "Protocol"). Under the Protocol, there is an Election Blackout Period with respect to Formal Code Complaints.

5.9. Termination of inquiry when regular election begins

If the Integrity Commissioner has not completed an inquiry before nomination day for a regular election, as set out in section 31 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the Integrity Commissioner shall terminate the inquiry on that day. If an inquiry is so terminated, the Integrity Commissioner shall not commence another inquiry in respect of the matter unless, within six weeks after voting day in a regular election as set out in section 5 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the person or entity who made the request or the Member or former Member whose conduct is concerned makes a written request to the Integrity Commissioner that the inquiry be commenced.

5.10. Other rules that apply during regular election

The following rules apply during the period of time starting on nomination day for a regular election, as set out in section 31 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, and ending on voting day in a regular election, as set out in section 5 of that Act:

1. There shall be no requests for an inquiry about whether a member of council or of a Local Board has contravened the Code of Conduct applicable to the Member
2. The Integrity Commissioner shall not report to the Municipality or Local Board about whether, in his or her opinion, a member of council or of a Local Board has contravened the Code of Conduct applicable to the Member.
- 3.. The Municipality or Local Board shall not consider whether to impose the penalties referred to in sections 5.5 and 5.6 above on a member of council or of a Local Board.

Therefore, between nomination day (August 21, 2026 this year) and voting day, there shall be no requests for an inquiry, no reports from the Integrity Commissioner on Code contraventions and no meetings of Council or a local board to consider imposing any penalties on a member of Council or a local board.

While this Office cannot receive Code complaints during this period leading up to the municipal election on October 26, 2026, the Integrity Commissioner remains available to provide guidance on the Code rules to sitting Members with respect to their obligations as elected officials until voting day. This Office cannot provide candidates with *Municipal Elections Act* (“MEA”) advice and has no jurisdiction to enforce the rules of the MEA. The Use of Corporate Resources Policy (as legislated by the Municipal Elections Act) may provide Members further rules that must be followed.

Statement of Expenditures

\$5,650.00 – Integrity Commissioner Services (including remuneration for advice to Members of Council and Council, Delivery of Council Education Session, office administration). Where expenses for the investigation of Formal Complaints exceed the available amount of the Annual Stipend for Integrity Commissioner Services, an invoice will be submitted to the Municipality for such services.

Closing Remarks

2026 is a Municipal Election year. I encourage Members of Council to seek advice from this Office with respect to navigating their roles as sitting Members and their election related activities.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Township Clerk, Mr. Craig Jeffrey, for the assistance of his Office in providing me with the relevant Township policies in fulfilling my mandate of Integrity Commissioner for Seguin Township.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Craig
Integrity Commissioner

June 9, 2026