



City of St. Catharines

Decision of the Niagara Compliance Audit Committee

Established under Section 88.37(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (the “Act”)

A Compliance Audit Application regarding Campaign Finances of Mat Siscoe, Candidate, Mayor

IN THE MATTER OF an Application for a Compliance Audit pursuant to subsection 88.33(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*;

AND IN THE MATTER OF a meeting of the Compliance Audit Committee (the “Committee”), held Thursday, July 20, 2023.

PURPOSE

The Niagara Compliance Audit Committee (the “Committee”) met on July 20, 2023, to consider an application for a Compliance Audit submitted by Danielle Romanuk (the “Applicant”) with respect to the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election and the campaign finances of Mat Siscoe (the “Candidate”), Candidate for office of Mayor.

DECISION

On reading the documents submitted by the Applicant and the Respondent, and upon hearing submissions from the Applicant and the Respondent, this Committee held that a request for a Compliance Audit of the Mat Siscoe campaign be denied.

REASONS

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

1. With respect to the preparation of the video, the Committee is satisfied that there is no information presented to the Committee to substantiate a belief that there were any contributions, including services provided by persons who regularly provide such services to the public for a fee beyond those which were invoiced and reported on Form 4.

2. With respect to the phone and website domain expenses: clearly as admitted by the Candidate, some expenses were omitted from the Form 4 filing, that the Candidate became aware of 10 days ago. Therefore, the Applicant has satisfied the Committee that there is a reasonable belief that the *Municipal Elections Act* provisions related to reporting campaign expenses has been contravened.

However, the Committee has the discretion considering all of the circumstances to decide that a compliance audit is not warranted.

By extending the campaign period pursuant to Section 88.24 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, the Candidate has the opportunity to file a new supplementary filing. The Candidate has filed such supplementary filing, however as the deadline for this filing has not expired, the Candidate also has the opportunity under the *Act* to correct any errors and replace that statement. We have no authority to direct Mayor Siscoe to do so; however, we strongly encourage him to do so.

The second issue is the amount of the deficiency which is in the approximate amount of \$200 and can be corrected in this case by the Candidate by filing a corrected supplementary Form 4. The Committee is also persuaded that this deficiency does not warrant the order of a compliance audit.

It is the decision of the Committee for these reasons to reject the application.

Written and approved by the following Committee Members:

July 25/23
Date




Heather Salter, Chair
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 25/23
Date




Larry Peebles,
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 25, 2023
Date




Murray Christie,
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 25/23
Date



Margo Pinder,
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 25/2023
Date



Robert Ciarlo,
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member