



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 Nick Petrucci, 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 Zoe Lachance (the "Applicant") with respect to the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election and the campaign finances of Nick Petrucci (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 Nick Petrucci campaign be denied.

REASONS

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

1. The Committee is satisfied that there is a reasonable belief that there are contraventions of the *Municipal Elections Act* in that the payment for the website was not included as a contribution nor were the Candidate's contribution to his own campaign.

However, it is also clear from the evidence provided that the Candidate ran a very limited campaign and did not have a sound understanding of the Form 4

requirements. The Committee is satisfied that the Candidate made a good faith effort to complete the required documents, albeit incomplete and incorrectly.

2. The amount of discrepancy at issue is not significant, being approximately \$214.
3. Upon review of the totality of the circumstances, it is therefore the opinion of this Committee that there is no public interest to order a compliance audit in this instance as very little new information would be garnered.

For the foregoing reasons it is the decision of this Committee that the application is denied.

Written and approved by the following Committee Members:


July 25/23
Date


Heather Salter, Chair
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 23/23
Date


Larry Peebles,
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 25, 2023
Date


Murray Christie,
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 25, 2023
Date


Margo Pinder,
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 25, 2023
Date


Robert Ciarlo,
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member