



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee
From: Donna Bryce, County Clerk
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022
Subject: **Joint Compliance Audit Committee**

Background:

The purpose of this report is to establish a Joint Compliance Audit Committee for the 2022-2026 Term of Council. Section 88.37 of the Municipal Elections Act (the Act) requires municipalities to establish a Compliance Audit Committee (the Committee) prior to October 1st of an election year.

The Committee is Joint between the County and the member municipalities. The Clerk from each municipality will bring a similar report to their Council to establish the Committee.

An elector who is entitled to vote in an election and believes on reasonable grounds that a candidate has contravened a provision of the Act relating to election campaign finances may apply for a compliance audit of the candidate's election campaign finances.

The mandate of the Committee is as follows:

- Consider the request for a compliance audit and determine whether the request should be granted or rejected;
- If the request is granted, appoint an auditor;
- Review the auditor's report and determine whether legal action should be taken; and
- If the auditor's report indicates that there were no apparent contraventions, and if there appears that there were no reasonable grounds for application, the Council is entitled to recover the auditor's costs from the applicant

The Terms of Reference for the Committee is attached.

When a municipality receives an application for a compliance audit, the Clerk of that municipality will call a meeting of the Committee and will prepare the necessary notices, agendas, minutes, etc. Any costs associated with the holding of meetings, decisions of the Committee and audits conducted will be the responsibility of the municipality requesting the services of the Committee.

Compensation to Committee members for compliance audit reviews related to County Councillors will be at the per diem provided to citizen members on County Boards and Committees.

The Committee members on the previous term have agreed to stand for re-appointment to the Committee with the same term of office as Council. The members, Jim McQueen, Wes Snarr, Douglas Aud and Joseph Servos, were appointed based on applications submitted and reviewed by a selection committee of Clerks to ensure the members had knowledge of the Act's campaign financing rules.

Recommendation:

That the Terms of Reference for a Joint Compliance Audit Committee for the County and its member municipalities be approved; and

That staff be directed to prepare the necessary by-law to establish a Joint Compliance Audit Committee for the 2022-2026 Term of Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Bryce', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donna Bryce
County Clerk