SUBMISSION – DAVID GRANT

ITEM 1 OF THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL DATED JULY 8, 2024 - AMENDMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT BY-LAW 19/2018

Submitted: Wed, 07/17/2024 - 11:58

Delegation information

Committee you want to address

Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

gov 1

I am opposed to the recommendations

Register as a delegation

Via zoom

Submit comments in writing

Comments

When considering Council's Ethics rules, one must realize that this process was once just to provide specific advice for members of Council. It still does that. As this process emulates the ethics processes of other bodies, it investigates and reports. As it does these things, the exemptions and black-out periods can become problematic.

This item suggests some good changes to the bylaw. On the other hand, it fails to make other needed changes. Since Complaints are not just deterrents, but are also intended to educate, they should be investigated and reported throughout every year. Investigating a Complaint that is submitted long after the alleged event can still be educational.

Manitoba's Bill 36 limits the secret dismissal of Complaints. It had a very high priority in Cabinet, because those secret deals do harm, and they knew the rules had to change. Any regulator of professionals, and any ethics process, whose rules enable completely secret dismissals, and have narrow reporting windows, may be skating on thin ice. I am working with the Minister and his staff on the next steps, beyond Bill 36.

For this reason, all complaints should be investigated. Redaction might be needed, but such investigations should not be automatically dismissed. The best way to do this involves publishing reasons (which Ms Walsh already does) and investigating every Complaint, which the rules currently prevent her from doing.