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March 29, 2019

Suzanne Craig
Integrity Commissioner

Dear Ms. Craig,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 25, 2019 and the Code of Conduct Complaint of Mr. John Brassard and I advise as follows:

1. I made the Facebook Post, on a personal Facebook page which is attached to Mr. Brassard's complaint;
2. I made the post to express my opinion exercising my right to free speech in accordance with Section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
3. In making the post, I asked local MPs to speak up and to engage in dialogue regarding an issue that is at the forefront of much political discussion currently;
4. I deny that the content of my post was defamatory to Mr. Brassard;
5. I have received the Notice of Defamation of Mr. Brassard prepared by his legal counsel and I have consulted legal counsel in regard to the allegations of Mr. Brassard and the threatened legal action;
6. I have reviewed the Code of Conduct and, in particular, the sections highlighted by Mr. Brassard;
7. The statements made in my Facebook post reflect my opinion on an important issue that affects our community. The statements, while strongly worded, were not discourteous, offensive or aggressive, are my honest understanding based on information known to me, and I invited Mr. Brassard to enter into a public dialogue about the issue. I believe that my actions were not in breach of my obligations under the Council Code of Conduct.

The above reflects my reply to the complaint. Mr. Brassard has not contacted me personally to discuss the post in question, but I would welcome a respectful and open dialogue regarding the issues raised and Mr. Brassard's position and concerns.

If you require any additional information from me, please advise.

Sincerely,



Keenan Aylwin