

I am unable to attend the council meeting tonight at which Nigel Bellchamber, Integrity Commissioner; Amberley Gavel will be presenting a report to council regarding recent complaints under the code of conduct for elected officials.

The purpose of this response is to bring your attention to the immediate need to address the "Code of Conduct" itself as well as the process itself. Having filed a complaint in 2016 on behalf of the Richmond Hill Lawn Tennis concerning the misleading statements of an elected official at our AGM, we have had no follow up or response from the Integrity commissioner other than an initial interview. To date, we have no idea what has become of the complaint but after reading the report before council, it appears as though the integrity commissioner has the authority to dismiss claims and in our case, not even respond to them. The process is flawed and although we maintain the complaint had merit, we must then assume the "Code of Conduct" is lacking in many respects.

I am aware of another complaint in which a Councilor made public statements that were misleading and false, yet the decision was made to not pursue the matter adding further evidence to the inadequacy of the process and the code itself. I am left wonder how many other valid complaints were summarily dismissed or even followed up on? I would direct you to the [Brampton Code of Conduct](#) for an illustration of what a "code of conduct" should contain and I would welcome the opportunity to provide more input on the specifics of the two complaints and the failings of the process.

The Richmond Hill Code of Conduct and the process itself is severely lacking in many respects and it must be addressed.

Mike Bowcott
Past President, RHLTC