

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT (PUBLIC)

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

Members: Matthew Lee (Trustee), Lynn Scott (Trustee), Brian Burns (External Member), Shannon Hoeft (External Member)

Staff and Guests Michele Giroux (Director of Education), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), Janice McCoy (Executive Officer), Genevieve Segu (Regional Internal Audit Team Manager), Gordon Champagne (Senior Regional Internal Auditor), Darren Gatley (Senior Board Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott called the public session to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Scott acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

3. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Lee,
THAT the agenda be approved.**

Carried

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

5. Matters for Action

5.1 Report 23-018, Review of Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct (J. McCoy)

Your Committee had before it Report 23-018, seeking input on proposed revisions to P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct (the Code).

During the discussion and in response to queries, the following was noted:

- Barriers to the implementation of 2019 Board approved revisions to the Code were due to the fact that an integrity commissioner was never appointed. The request for proposal process resulted in a roster of integrity advisors. Staff are preparing a report to the Board recommending the appointment of an interim integrity commissioner and aim to have the appointment come into effect 1 May 2023.

Trustee Lee assumed the chair

- Staff clarified that the draft language in section 4.7 of the Code, suggests that trustees aim to resolve issues and conflict themselves. Although this approach is not mandatory, it is usually the quickest solution to resolve a conflict. If the integrity commissioner becomes involved in the process too early, there may be a lost opportunity to address the concern in a collegial manner. If, however, the board member feels that there is a significant egregious issue, the commissioner would be available to help advise the complainant or be directly involved in the conversation;
- Staff are considering developing a procedure to accompany the policy in order to clarify the complaint process and to outline mitigation measures;
- If members of the public are provided with the opportunity to submit complaints, any submissions that are frivolous or vexatious will not be entertained, otherwise, a complaint would be reviewed as any other complaint and would be communicated to trustees with a report and a recommendation by the integrity commissioner;

Trustee Scott resumed the chair

- It was noted that a full-time integrity commissioner would be needed if complaints are open to the public and that it would be expected that a significant volume of complaints would be received given the current political climate; and
- Policies P.009.HR Respectful Workplace (Harassment Prevention), P.129.GOV Complaints Resolution, and P.147.GOV Human Rights apply to board members. The office of the Human Rights and Equity Advisor (HREA) and General Counsel are reviewing these policies to determine the role of the integrity commissioner in a review of these policies.

Moved by Brian Burns,

THAT Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct include a requirement that trustees sign a copy of the Code of Conduct to indicate their awareness of its contents.

Carried

6. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

In response to a query, Associate Director Gerrior noted that he would provide a report regarding Asset Retirement Obligations at the 17 May 2023 Audit Committee meeting.

7. Adjournment

The public meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair, Audit Committee