

**City Council, Standing Committee and Commission
Conseil, comités permanents et commission**

Motion

Notice of Motion / Avis de motion

Committee / Commission:

Council / Conseil

Report / Agenda:

Item / Article: **REPORT TO COUNCIL ON AN INQUIRY RESPECTING THE CONDUCT OF
COUNCILLOR HARDER**

Re: Post-employment lobbying restrictions

Moved by / Motion de: **Councillor S. Menard**

Seconded by / Appuyée par: **Councillor C. McKenney**

WHEREAS the most recent report from the Integrity Commissioner has given rise to concerns about the perception of close ties between the development industry and local government, in particular as it relates to some developers, consultants and lobbyists and Council and senior planning staff; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the City of Ottawa's Lobbyist Registry By-law, lobbying occurs when an individual representing a financial or business interest, or the financial interest of a not-for-profit with paid staff, communicates with a Member of Council or City staff to try to influence a decision on governmental matters that are outside of standard processes; and

WHEREAS the federal government has established a 5-year post-employment prohibition on lobbying, which excludes designated senior public office holders (defined in the federal *Lobbying Act* and including both elected officials and senior public servants) from being paid to work as a consultant lobbyist on behalf of an organization or corporation for five years after their last day of employment as a designated senior public office holder; and

WHEREAS establishing such a post-employment lobbying prohibition for municipal staff and elected officials would support efforts to restore public trust in the independence of the planning process; and

WHEREAS Section 223.9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes municipalities to provide for a system of registration of persons who lobby public office holders, including the authority to prohibit former public office holders from lobbying current public office holders for a specified period of time; and

WHEREAS the *Municipal Act, 2001* defines a “public office holder as including:

- a) a member of the municipal council and any person on his or her staff,
- b) an officer or employee of the municipality,
- c) a member of a local board of the municipality and any person on his or her staff,
- d) an officer, director or employee of a local board of the municipality, and
- e) such other persons as may be determined by the municipality who are appointed to any office or body by the municipality or by a local board of the municipality.

WHEREAS Section 223.9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes municipalities to provide for a system of registration of persons who lobby public office holders, including the authority to prohibit former public office holders from lobbying current public office holders for a specified period of time

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Integrity Commissioner work with the Office of the City Clerk as part of the 2022-2026 Governance Review, to include considerations for the City of Ottawa to introduce post-employment lobbying restrictions as part of its Lobbyist Registry By-law