

PEEL REGION

Interim integrity commissioner has contract extended

ROGER BELGRAVE

rbelgrave@thebramptonguardian.com

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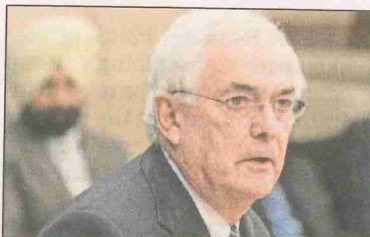
Peel Region has extended the contract of its interim integrity commissioner.

Lawyer Robert Swayze, who does double-duty as the municipality's interim integrity commissioner and lobby registrar, originally had a six-month contract that was supposed to end July 31.

However, that contract has been extended to January while the region continues its procurement process to find a long-term commissioner and registrar, explained Regional Clerk and Director Kathryn Lockyer in an email.

Swayze's contract pays him \$280 an hour when required to deal with any integrity complaints or council matters related to his duties.

The region installed a commissioner and registry earlier this year as part of a move to increase transparency and accountability.



Bernard Weil/Toronto Star file photo

Lawyer Robert Swayze

The online registry opened March 1 and publicly lists the people, businesses and organizations contacting councillors, as well as municipal staff and appointees, to seek political support on various matters that come before council and the municipality.

As integrity commissioner, Swayze would deal with code of conduct complaints lodged against council members.

There is \$200,000 proposed in the 2018 regional budget to retain an integrity commissioner, lobbyist registrar and "enhance" the lobby registry.

There are currently more than 50 lobbyists registered.