



Township of North Kawartha

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
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www.northkawartha.ca

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Kelly Picken, Clerk
Date: September 1, 2026
Subject: 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections
Appointment of Compliance Audit Committee

Recommendation:

That a By-Law be passed at the end of the meeting to establish and appoint members to a Compliance Audit Committee and to establish Terms of Reference for the Compliance Audit Committee for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Background:

The [Municipal Election Act](#) (MEA) Sections 88.33 to 88.37 sets out the requirement for Council to appoint a Compliance Audit Committee by October 1st of an election year. The Committee will consider applications from electors entitled to vote in an election and who believe on reasonable grounds that a candidate or registered third party advertiser has contravened a provision of the MEA relating to election campaign finances. The Committee will also consider whether or not to commence legal proceedings against contributors for contravening any of the contribution limits, based on a report submitted by the Clerk identifying contributors who appear to have contravened any contribution limits.

Analysis:

Peterborough County Clerks have worked together to seek out the following individuals qualified for appointment with the Committee and have reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference.

Bruce Averill, Jade Calver, Tesia Darby, David Gurnham, Eric Hanna, David Minshall, Lois O'Neill-Jackson, Dave Wisson

Members cannot be employees or officers of the municipality, members of council or a local board, a candidate or registered third party in the election.



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It is important that the committee members:

- be familiar with financial statements
- be familiar with the municipal election process
- not affiliated with any candidate and are therefore free from political influence.

The compliance audit committee would be given authority under the MEA to address applications requesting an audit of a candidate's or third-party advertiser's campaign finances.

The Committee would be authorized to:

- Review applications and grant or reject audit requests
- Where an audit is granted, to appoint an auditor, and review the audit report
- Where indicated, decide whether legal proceedings shall be commenced
- Consider reports submitted by the Clerk regarding apparent contraventions of contribution limits and make decisions with regard to such reports.

Financial Implications:

Council shall pay all costs in relation to the Compliance Audit Committee's operation and activities.

The amount paid to Committee members is \$30.00 per hour per meeting with a three-hour minimum. Mileage will also be paid in accordance with the municipality's approved mileage rate.

Strategic and/or Other Plans:

3. Governance – Maintain a Strong, Accountable Municipal Government

Consultations:

Peterborough County Lower-Tier Clerks

Attachment:

By-law and Terms of Reference