

Town of Collingwood - Termination of Membership in the OMWA

From: Chris Sargent <csargent@collingwood.ca>

Sent: March 3, 2022 11:42 AM

To: MMortimer@ocwa.com; admin@omwa.org

Cc: Clerk's Distribution List <clerk@collingwood.ca>

Subject: Town of Collingwood - Termination of Membership in the OMWA

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March 3, 2022

BY E-MAIL

Ontario Municipal Water Association
61 Meadowlark Blvd.,
Wasaga Beach, ON L9Z 3B3

Attn: Mike Mortimer, President & Board of Directors

Dear President Mortimer & Board,

Re: Termination of the Town of Collingwood's Membership in the OMWA

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Collingwood, respectfully wishes to advise you that the Town of Collingwood can no longer remain a member of the Ontario Municipal Water Association. At the regular meeting of Council held January 24th, 2022, Council passed the following motion:

WHEREAS Collingwood is a member of the Ontario Municipal Water Association (OMWA);

AND WHEREAS the OMWA website lists Mr. Ed Houghton as the Executive Director of OMWA;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Houghton was the CEO of Collus Power Corporation and the Acting CAO for the Town of Collingwood when the Town closed the sale of 50% of its interest in Collus Power Corporation to Powerstream Incorporated in 2012 and subsequently used the proceeds to purchase 2 Sprung buildings for the Town's recreation facilities through a sole-sourced procurement;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Collingwood Council of 2014-2018 asked the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Ontario to strike a Judicial Inquiry into these 2 transactions in 2018 and the then Associate Chief Justice Frank Marrocco was appointed the Commissioner of the Collingwood Judicial Inquiry;

AND WHEREAS Justice Marrocco released his report on November 2, 2020, in which he found that, "undisclosed conflicts, unfair procurements, and lack of transparency stained both transactions;"

AND WHEREAS Justice Marrocco found that when, “the answers to legitimate questions are dismissive, spun, or obfuscated, public trust further erodes” and that, “the relationship between the public and its municipal government may never be the same;”

AND WHEREAS Justice Marrocco found that Mr. Houghton, “enjoyed unusual influence and freedom in his roles with the Town and Collus corporations” and that Mr. Houghton was a central figure in both transactions;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Houghton’s actions during these two transactions, as found by Justice Marrocco in his report, undermined the credibility and integrity of the Town of Collingwood and had a profound, devastating and lasting impact on our community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council terminate the Town’s membership in OMWA effectively immediately;

AND FURTHER THAT a letter be sent to the OMWA Board and copied to all members of OMWA attaching this motion and the link to Justice Marrocco’s Report, “Transparency and the Public Trust: Report of the Collingwood Judicial Inquiry.”

CARRIED.

Please find here the link to the [Transparency and the Public Trust: Report of the Collingwood Judicial Inquiry](#). Should you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned by email at clerk@collingwood.ca.

Yours truly,

TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD

Sara Almas, *CMM III*
Director of Legislative Services / Clerk

CC: Mike Mortimer, President, OMWA Board of Directors
OMWA Member Municipalities



Christopher Sargent B.A.
Coordinator, Clerk’s Services

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