



## City of St. Catharines

### Decision of the Niagara Compliance Audit Committee

Established under Section 88.37(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (the "Act")

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#### **A Compliance Audit Application regarding the Campaign Finances of Jason Benoit, Candidate, Councillor Ward 3 St. George's**

**IN THE MATTER OF** an Application for a Compliance Audit pursuant to subsection 88.33(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*;

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** a meeting of the Compliance Audit Committee (the "Committee"), held Monday, July 10, 2023.

#### **PURPOSE**

The Niagara Compliance Audit Committee (the "Committee") met on July 10, 2023 to consider an application for a Compliance Audit submitted by Ann-Marie Zammit (the "Applicant") with respect to the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election and the campaign finances of Jason Benoit (the "Candidate"), Candidate for office of Ward Councillor St. George's.

#### **DECISION**

That a request for a Compliance Audit of the Jason Benoit campaign be granted.

#### **REASONS**

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

1. The *Municipal Elections Act* places an obligation on the Candidate to file a true and correct financial statement. Evidence was presented in the application to suggest that the Candidate did not take care in the preparation of his financial statement, nor did he file a true and correct financial statement. This evidence was supplemented by an admission made on behalf of the Candidate by his agent that campaign expenses were incurred but not reported by the Candidate.

2. Therefore, as per the evidence provided in the application that there were campaign expenses, which was not refuted by the Candidate or his agent, and as per the Candidate's own admission (through his agent during oral submissions) that campaign expenses were incurred, the committee therefore has no option but to order a compliance audit as per the *Municipal Elections Act*.
3. The Niagara Compliance Audit Committee directs the Clerk to engage the services of an auditor to conduct a compliance audit of the election campaign finances of Jason Benoit, candidate for Councillor St. George's Ward, City of St. Catharines in the 2022 Municipal Election.

Written and approved by the following Committee Members:

July 14, 2023  
Date

Murray Christie  
Murray Christie, Chair  
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

13 July 2023  
Date

Larry Peebles  
Larry Peebles,  
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

July 14, 2023  
Date

Heather Salter  
Heather Salter,  
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

Jul 14/23  
Date

Margo Pinder  
Margo Pinder,  
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member

13 July 2023  
Date

Dinesh Parakh  
Dinesh Parakh,  
Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Member