



**Cobourg Taxpayers Association**

*Making Local Government Accountable*

# Ombudsman Fee

# Purpose

- Clarify fee situation
- By-law amendment required
- No fee to apply for:
  - Ombudsman
  - Integrity Commissioner

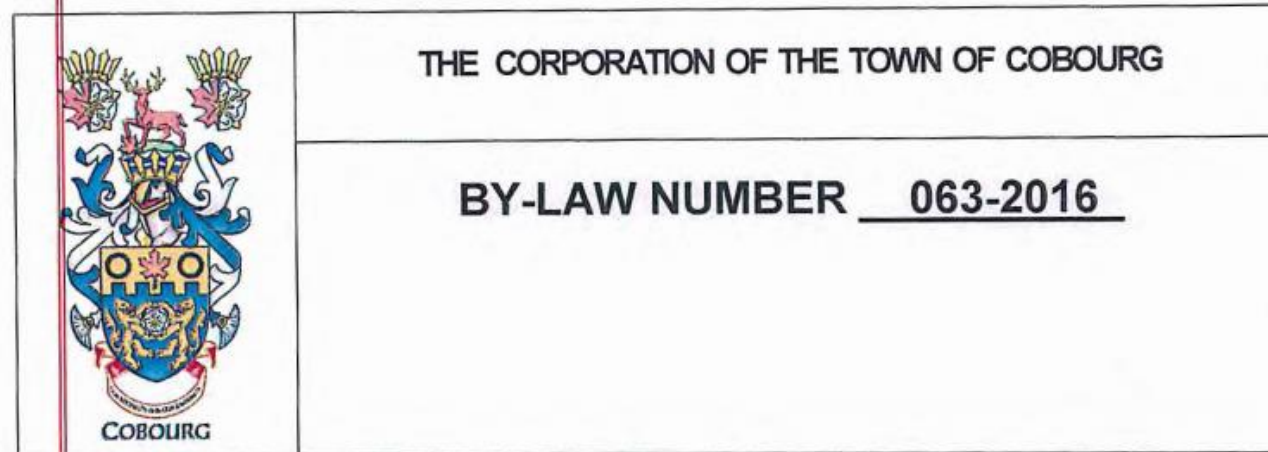
# Background

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting on November 13, 2017, Council received a staff report that stated:

“...that no fees are charged for Municipal Ombudsman or Integrity Commissioner Investigations.”

A Fee for Municipal Ombudsman or Integrity Commissioner Investigations **does exist** and is shown in the Fees and Charges Bylaw 063-2016

# Bylaw 063-2016



**A BY-LAW TO ADOPT A FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE FOR THE TOWN OF COBOURG.**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to *Municipal Act S.O. 2001, c.25* Section 391 provides in part that a municipality may pass by-laws imposing fees or charges on persons for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of it and for the use of its property including property under its control;

# Bylaw 063-2016

## FEES & CHARGES SCHEDULE 2016

DEPARTMENT / ITEM	CURRENT FEES (2013)	PROPOSED FEES
<b>GENERAL – Clerk (Victoria Hall)</b>		
Closed Meeting Investigator, Integrity Commissioner or Ombudsman Request	\$25.00	\$50.00 + Costs
Commission of Oath	\$5.00	\$5.00
Death Certificate In Town	n/a	\$10.00
Death Certificate Out of Town	\$10.00	\$15.00

# News Article

## Ombudsman fee to remain in place

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Northumberland Today · 16 Nov 2017 · A1 · CECILIA NASMITH

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COBOURG — A recent call from the Cobourg Taxpayers Association for the abolition of the \$25 fee to access the services of the Ombudsman turned out to be incorrect, council learned this week.

In October, the organization's secretary, Dennis Nabieszko, made the plea, stating that Cobourg is the only organization in the world that puts up barriers to the services of an ombudsman.

A report from bylaw enforcement and policy co-ordinator Brent Larmer delivered at this week's committee-of-the-whole meeting stated that no fees are charged for the services of the Municipal Ombudsman or Integrity Commissioner investigations — the fee applies only to investigations having to do with closed meetings.

# Clarification

- CTA did not ask for a non-existent fee to be rescinded
- Fee in question exists in Fees and Charges Schedule set out in By-law 063-2016
- Approved August 8, 2016
- Is the fee \$25 or \$50 plus costs?

# Request

Amend By-law 063-2016 to remove all fees for Integrity Commissioner and Ombudsman requests





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**Thank You**