



The Corporation of the Township of Emo

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MEDIA RELEASE FROM TOWNSHIP OF EMO

September 11, 2026: There have been serious and repeated allegations in various media networks and to the OPP that some person or persons on Emo council or administration have been mishandling donated funds.

The facts of the matter are as follows:

- A crowdfund gift of \$5,300 was personally given to Mayor Harold McQuaker shortly after that same amount had been garnisheed from his bank account in December, 2024. Mayor McQuaker publicly accepted this gift.
- A complaint was then filed with Emo's former Integrity Commissioner (IC) alleging that Mayor McQuaker had received financial contributions through crowdfunding without satisfying applicable disclosure obligations.
- The current Integrity Commissioner, Robin Dunn, presented the report of his thorough investigation to an open meeting of council on August 11th, 2026. He stated that the Mayor had fully cooperated with the investigation. He faulted the Mayor only for failing to file a report to the IC for any gift valued over \$1,000 as required by the Township of Emo's Councillor Code of Conduct By-Law.
- The Integrity Commissioner did not find fault with the Mayor for receiving or retaining the gift, nor for any of the other allegations contained in the complaint.
- The Integrity Commissioner recommended that Council formally reprimand the Mayor for the oversight, which Council did on August 25th, and that his stipend as Mayor be withheld for two months.
- The Township received information from the Emo Public Library on December 22, 2025 that it had also received a \$5,000 donation from crowdfunding.
- Every donation received by the Township is recorded and is also receipted unless the donor is anonymous.
- Aside from the \$5,300 given personally to the Mayor and the \$5,000 given directly to the Library, no crowd funding has been received by the Municipality nor by anyone in Council or Administration.

We hope this information will correct any public misunderstanding that has circulated. By clarifying the facts, we believe this will put an end to unfounded allegation of unethical or criminal activity on the part of Emo's Mayor, Council, or Administration.