

Senior Toronto officials didn't provide critical information, CAO says

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lease rate was only good for 90 days (it would subsequently be set by MFP based on current conditions and has since peaked at more than 11 per cent); the fact the contract would be extended from three to five years and the fact \$23.5 million of computer equipment already purchased by the city was sold to MFP and then leased back as part of the deal.

"Would you expect disclosures of that from professionals like them?" asked Mr. Manes.

"Yes," replied Mr. Garrett. "And if we assume that all of these were not disclosed, would you say that this report was less than full and frank and accurate?" asked Mr. Manes.

"Yes," said Mr. Garrett, who now oversees York Region's \$1-billion budget and 1,700 staff.

Earlier in Friday's testimony, Mr. Manes asked Mr. Garrett the extent to which Ms. Liczyk and Mr. Andrew were responsible for notifying council of the details.

"It's the person who has direct responsibility for this: Ms. Liczyk and Mr. Andrew," said Mr. Garrett. "But to be clear they may have relied on their staff to bring certain items forward, as well."

"But they're the captain of that ship," said Mr. Manes.

"They're the captain of that ship," said Garrett.

He went on to testify

about his approval of the purchase and subsequent lease of 10,000 Oracle software licences the city later found it didn't need.

Mr. Garrett said he approved the purchase in the context of the city's Y2K preparations, based on staff advice.

"We were moving forward with major new software that would hopefully reduce the paper process that we had in place," said Mr. Garrett. "We

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wanted technology that had room to grow."

Mr. Garrett, who left Toronto in 2001 after a public split with Mayor Mel Lastman, also spoke at length about his work developing Toronto's code of conduct early in the first years of the amalgamated city.

Mr. Garrett said the premise of the city's code of conduct was that senior staff should not have even the appearance of conflicts of interest.

He said the city's conflict of interest policies were the subject of numerous meetings and round-table discussions.



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