

New council charged with setting salary, expenses

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Are you considering running for municipal office this year, but don't like the salary?

If elected, you can try to change it.

At the start of every new term, the mayor and councillors have the opportunity to decide their remuneration, including how much, up to a certain limit, of their salary will be tax-free, according to Marc Pourvahidi, the town's director of finance

and treasurer.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson earned \$48,900 last year, while each of the six councillors took home \$32,900. A third of their salaries were tax-free.

For 2014, Mr. Pourvahidi said their salaries will increase 2 per cent, as will their car allowances, which were \$8,500 (mayor) and \$4,000 (councillor) for 2013.

Council also has the option to have town-issued laptops and cellphones. All councillors, but not the mayor, have laptops. Only four of the seven public servants opted for

cellphones, according to the March 18 council report.

Councillors Ken Ferdinands, Susanne Hilton and Richard Bartley do not have town-issued cellphones.

After three years in office, that equipment is theirs.

Each councillor and the mayor, according to Mr. Pourvahidi, pay for their residual value, which ranges from \$150 to \$374.

By giving them ownership of the equipment after three years, there is no conflict of interest come election time when utilizing them for

campaign purposes, according to Mr. Pourvahidi.

"Elected officials, if they use public money for any of their public relations purposes ... it will be tracked and disclosed per the Municipal Act," he said.

Mr. Bartley and Ms Hilton, along with Mr. Emmerson, spent none of their allotted funds for communications/newsletters in 2013, while Rob Hargrave spent the most — \$6,202.

The limit is \$9,220.

"I'm not going to spend town money without strategically doing

it," Mr. Hargrave told The Sun-Tribune.

The money was spent on a mid-term report, which encapsulated the Ward 6 councillor's first two years of this term and projections for the final two years.

Mr. Hargrave has the largest ward with 4,610 homes, as of Feb. 2013.

In 2012, Mr. Hargrave spent nothing.

On the other end of the spending scale, Councillor Clyde Smith utilized only \$120 on attending functions and general public relations last year.

ON APRIL 1st, 2014, YORK REGION COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES WILL NO LONGER BE PROVIDING CARE TO OUR SENIORS IN THE ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY LIVING CENTRES (ACL's).

THESE MPP'S CAN REVERSE THE DEVASTATING HEALTHCARE CUTS TO OUR SENIORS IN THE ACL'S



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PLEASE CONTACT THESE MPP'S TODAY AND DEMAND THESE CUTS BE REVERSED IMMEDIATELY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF OUR SENIORS.

For more information, please contact CUPE Local 905 at: 905-967-0823 or visit cupe905.com



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This new policy is a result of a directive from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to the Central Local Health Integration Network (CLHIN). In York Region, the ACL's currently provide on site 24/7 care to approximately 225 seniors who are deemed to be frail and/or cognitively impaired. This new directive contains devastating changes which include reductions in the level of care that our seniors currently receive such as: no onsite 24/7 care, no established continuity of care and services being moved to a "hub and spoke model". This means any call from our seniors in distress and/or in need of urgent care, will be placed in a call queue and wait a **minimum** of fifteen minutes for care, given that there will be no further on site services.

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