

August 9, 2026

Insp. Greg Given
Detachment Commander
Ontario Provincial Police
Rainy River District Detachment
901 Sunset Drive
Fort Frances, ON P9A 2T2

Via Email (gregory.given@opp.ca)

Dear Insp. Given:

Re: Request for Investigation into Fraudulent Crowdfunding and Municipal Financing

We represent Borderland Pride.

We are writing to request the opening of a criminal investigation into online fundraising activities hosted on popular crowdfunding websites in late 2024 and early 2025 relating to the Corporation of the Township of Emo and Mayor Harold McQuaker.

These campaigns were launched for the stated purpose of equipping Mayor McQuaker and the municipality's council with sufficient resources to reprise against Borderland Pride for its victory against the municipality and Mayor McQuaker at the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario in November 2024 (2024 HRTO 1651).

As of February 23, 2025, a total of \$34,151 was raised across 5 fundraising campaigns from individual donors. These fundraising campaigns are as follows:

- "Fight for Emo", administered by Michael Keller, appeared on GiveSendGo, at <https://www.givesendgo.com/fightforemo>, raising \$20,945;
- "Town of Emo", administered by "Brad Hall", appeared on GoFundMe, at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/town-of-emo-ontario>, raising \$5,875;
- "Stand with Emo, Ontario", administered by "David Brooks", appeared on GoFundMe, at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/stand-with-emo-ontario-defending-freedom-of-expression>, raising \$835;
- "Mayor Harold McQuaker ("Refused to be Bullied", administered by "Proud Canadian" on GoFundMe, at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/mayor-harold-mcquaker>, raising \$6,496; and
- "Fined for His Beliefs: Back Emo's Mayor Today!", administered by "Tre Lamkin" on GoFundMe, at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fined-for-his-beliefs-back-emos-mayor-today>, raising \$0.

Mr. Keller is the only administrator whose identity has been confirmed. He lives in New Brunswick.

On December 3, 2025, the Corporation of the Township of Emo confirmed, in response to a freedom of information request, that it had received no funds from any of these crowdfunding campaigns. This is despite highly-publicized images showing Mayor McQuaker accepting a \$5,300.65 payment from Mr. Keller's campaign at the municipal office in December 2024.

On August 9, 2026, the Township released a report from the municipal integrity commissioner confirming that Mayor McQuaker deposited these funds into his personal bank account and had failed to remit them to the municipality in the prior 20 months.

Notably, Mayor McQuaker and his lawyers have launched significant legal proceedings at taxpayer expense to secure an order preventing the enforcement of the Tribunal's order that he pay compensation to Borderland Pride, when it is now evident that he had already recovered those funds at the time they did so.

In our view, several offences appear to have been committed contrary to the *Criminal Code of Canada*. These include:

- On the part of the crowdfunding webpage administrators, theft, contrary to section 334, breach of trust, contrary to section 336, possession of property obtained by crime, contrary to section 354, and fraud, contrary to section 380(1); and
- On the part of Mayor McQuaker, breach of trust by public officer, contrary to section 122, municipal corruption, section 123, theft by person required to account, contrary to section 330, breach of trust, contrary to section 336, and possession of property obtained by crime, contrary to section 354.

At least \$29,000 of donated money remains unaccounted for. These are serious crimes of deception against the public and individual donors. Given the self-evident corruption and municipal accountability concerns at issue, we trust you will undertake a thorough and expeditious investigation forthwith. We trust you will consider bringing in an external police force to lead this investigation given the involvement of local elected officials.

Sincerely,

JUDSON HOWIE LLP



Douglas W. Judson

Encl. Letter from the Corporation of the Township of Emo, dated December 3, 2025;
Letter of Complaint to the Integrity Commissioner, dated February 23, 2025;
Report of the Municipal Integrity Commissioner, dated August 5, 2026

C. Mayor and Council, Township of Emo, *Via Email* (cao@emo.ca);
The Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs, *Via Email* (minister.mah@ontario.ca);
The Hon. Greg Rickford, MPP for Kenora—Rainy River, *Via Email* (greg.rickfordco@pc.ola.org)