

Principles *Integrity*

Toronto Catholic District School Board Code of Conduct Complaint Against Trustee Daniel Di Giorgio **April 25, 2022 Addendum Report** to Recommendation Report Dated April 23, 2022¹

Introductory Comments

- [1] This is an addendum to our Recommendation Report dated April 23, 2022. It does not stand on its own and should be read in conjunction with that report.
- [2] On April 23, 2022 we provided the respondent in this matter, Trustee Daniel Di Giorgio, a copy of our Recommendation Report arising from a series of allegations against him that he breached the Board's Trustee Code of Conduct.
- [3] Through the course of our investigation the Trustee has not, despite being requested to do so, provided fulsome responses to the allegations raised in the complaints which formed part of our investigation, nor to our draft findings which were provided to him.
- [4] In the normal course of an investigation a respondent would have information that would shape an investigator's approach to the initial allegations.
- [5] In the normal course of an investigation an investigator would have the ability to test the credibility of assertions made by the parties to the investigation. We did not have that opportunity with respect to Trustee Di Giorgio's participation in this matter.
- [6] The Trustee has however made statements to us through email, sometimes shared with other Board Members, relating to:
 - Whether Principles *Integrity* should have recused itself in whole or in part from the investigation, and the manner in which Principles *Integrity* has responded to allegations of bias and/or conflict of interest
 - An unspecified reference that has been made to the Ombudsman of Ontario which would cause a stay of our investigation
 - The Trustee's assertions that he has been misquoted by *Corriere Canadese*.

¹ As amended July 11, 2022

Principles Integrity

- [7] The issues raised under the first bullet above are addressed in the Recommendation Report beginning at paragraph [20].
- [8] There is no merit to the assertion that a complaint to the Ombudsman of Ontario would stay an Integrity Commissioner's complaint. In any event we have received no notice from the Ombudsman's Office that we are the subject of a complaint; when we proactively made queries of the Ombudsman's Office we were given no indication that there was any issue for us to address. There is therefore no merit to the procedural consideration of a stay, nor to the substantive aspect of our approach to the investigation.
- [9] With respect to his receipt of our Recommendation Report April 23, 2022, Trustee Di Giorgio responded:
- I will respond to this email after my fulsome review of the attachment however I am alarmed Principles Integrity continues to falsely attribute a quote to me given that the article was revised.
 - I am advising you not to disseminate this attachment to prevent the spreading of misinformation.

and he provided a link to the revised article which he previously provided to us, and with respect to which we were already independently aware.

- [10] We believe it in the interest of the proper administration of this matter to clarify our analysis of the Trustee's statements as they originally appeared in the Corriere Canadese, and as subsequently revised.
- [11] It is text in the first five paragraphs of the Article posted on November 26, 2021 which is at issue.
- [12] On February 7, 2022, in response to our notice of the disposition of another complaint based on the same circumstances that gave rise to the investigation recited in the Recommendation Report (and which is referenced under the 'Dispositions' section of that Report), Trustee Di Giorgio, stated:

A quote, falsely attributed to me, is referenced in the disposition summary. Please note, the article was revised and this quote was removed back in November 2021 (<https://www.corriere.ca/english-articles/tcdsb-light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel/>).

and he attached the following email sent to the publisher of Corriere Canadese at 1:58 pm on November 26th:

Hi Joe,

Thank you for your interest in our caucus meeting.

Principles Integrity

I read the article below and would like you to correct the record with some quotes attributed to me which are not accurate.

The following quote I never said, please remove.

(redacted)

Additionally, this quote is not accurate.

(redacted)

I said something along the lines of “it is ironic that someone who allegedly is advocating on behalf of this group received 0 votes to sit on the subject committee”

Thank you for understanding
Daniel Di Giorgio

- [13] We were not provided with any response the publisher may have made. As noted, we have also not been able to test the credibility of Trustee Di Giorgio’s assertions with respect to his comments to the Corriere Canadese.
- [14] The text in the first five paragraphs of the article was modified as noted above. Though the text was modified slightly, we found on the balance of probabilities, based on the evidence we were able to assess, that the original quote was accurately attributed, and that the edits were to remove direct attributions to Trustee Di Giorgio. Despite the subsequent removal of the attributions, we found the quotes that appeared in the first version were those of Daniel Di Giorgio.
- [15] Notwithstanding the changes, at no point has Trustee Di Giorgio denied being the source of the Corriere Canadese article, ‘*Their objective was to clear out all of the wokeists (De Domenico, Di Pasquale, Li Preti and Rizzo) and “their [REDACTED]”²*’.

Recommendations:

- [16] We therefore recommend as follows:

1. That the Addendum Report be received.

² This version of the addendum to the report has been redacted, because the Corriere Canadese article was subsequently amended by the publisher.