



Chartered Professional Accountants

Alfred Kam, CPA, CA, CPA (Illinois), LPA
(Leo) King Lou, CPA, CGA, CPA (Vermont)
Mina Chan, CPA, CA, MAcc

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the City Clerk of Town of Markham:

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statement on prescribed Form 4 of Ritch Lau, the candidate for Ward 2 Councillor in the City of Markham, which comprises the statement of campaign income and expenses and statement of calculation of surplus (deficit) for the campaign period from May 2, 2022, to January 3, 2023, related to the election held on October 24, 2022.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the campaign income, expenses, and surplus (deficit) for the campaign period from May 2, 2022, to January 3, 2023, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Due to the nature of transactions inherent in electoral campaigns, it is impracticable through auditing procedures to determine that the accounting records include all campaign donations, receipts, income and disbursements. Accordingly, our verification of these transactions was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the campaign. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to the financial statement.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are independent of Ritch Lau, the candidate, in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statement in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the fact that the financial statement is prepared to assist the candidate to meet the financial reporting provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as a result, the financial statement may not be suitable for another purpose.

The Candidate's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

The candidate is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with Municipal Elections Act, 1996, and for such internal control as the candidate determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



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Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial statement.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the candidate.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statement, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statement represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the candidate regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

AWK LLP

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
Markham, Ontario

March 10, 2023