

Becky Goodwin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 2:17 PM
To: Becky Goodwin; Josh Goguen; Jennifer Borne
Subject: Code of Conduct violation

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CONFIDENTIAL

To: Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Tantramar
Cc: Chief Administrative Officer and Municipal Clerk
From: [REDACTED]
Date: August 30, 2026

Re: Formal Code of Conduct Complaint Against Mayor Debbie Wiggins-Colwell

I am submitting this formal complaint under section 6 of By-law No. 2025-19, the Council Code of Conduct for Tantramar.

Nature of the complaint

On August 28, 2026, within minutes of the Province announcing its Environmental Impact Assessment approval for the RIGS Gas Plant Project, Mayor Debbie Wiggins-Colwell released an official statement through the Municipality of Tantramar's Facebook page.

The statement expressly began:

"On behalf of Council..."

It then declared:

"Both the former and current Council of Tantramar opposed this project, but we must move forward with the expectation that all public concerns are reflected in the conditions attached to the certificate approval."

The statement also purported to define Council's position and future role following the provincial decision.

I have since learned that members of Council were not consulted before this statement was issued and were not asked whether they agreed with its contents. To my knowledge, Council did not meet, debate, vote upon, approve or otherwise authorize this statement or the position attributed to Council.

Consequently, Mayor Wiggins-Colwell presented her own position—or a position prepared without Council’s authorization—as the collective position of the entire Council. The use of the words “on behalf of Council” was therefore allegedly false or materially misleading.

This was not merely a personal comment by the mayor. It was published as an official municipal communication through an official Tantramar account and represented to residents and the media that Council had collectively accepted the provincial decision and agreed that the municipality “must move forward.”

Alleged Code of Conduct violations

I allege that this conduct may violate the following provisions of By-law No. 2025-19:

Section 5(a)(ii) — Representing Tantramar

Councillors must conduct Council business openly and transparently in a manner that promotes public confidence and trust, while recognizing that an individual councillor cannot exercise individual authority over Tantramar.

By announcing a collective Council position without consultation, deliberation or authorization, the mayor appears to have exercised authority individually and created the public impression that Council had reached a decision that it had not actually made.

Section 5(a)(iii), (iv) and (vii)

Councillors must exercise their duties with care and diligence, act honestly and in good faith, and adhere to the values of honesty, integrity, objectivity, impartiality and accountability.

Publishing an official statement claiming to speak for Council without first determining Council’s actual position is inconsistent with these duties and values.

Section 5(b)(ii) — Communicating on behalf of Tantramar

Official information concerning Council decisions is to be communicated to the public and media on behalf of Council as a whole.

The statement did not communicate a decision made by Council as a whole. It attributed a position to Council without Council having considered or approved that position.

Section 5(b)(iii) — False or misleading public statements

No councillor may make a statement that the member knows, or reasonably ought to know, is false or misleading concerning a material fact.

Whether Council had agreed to the statement and authorized the mayor to speak “on behalf of Council” was a material fact. As mayor, Debbie Wiggins-Colwell knew or

reasonably ought to have known whether Council had been consulted and whether the statement accurately represented its collective position.

Section 5(c) — Respecting the decision-making process

Councillors must foster respect for the democratic decision-making process and work toward the implementation of positions or decisions made by Council.

Presenting a position as Council's decision before Council had an opportunity to discuss or decide the matter bypassed the democratic decision-making process and denied individual councillors the opportunity to state their positions.

Section 5(e)(ii) and (iii) — Honesty and cooperation with fellow councillors

Councillors must demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and honesty and communicate with fellow councillors openly, transparently and honestly.

Issuing an official statement in the name of all councillors without consulting them is incompatible with these requirements.

Seriousness of the alleged violation

The timing and subject matter make this conduct particularly serious. The statement was issued almost immediately following a major provincial decision involving substantial public concern. It communicated acceptance of the approval and declared that Council "must move forward," without identifying any remaining legal, regulatory or political options Council might consider.

By presenting this as Council's collective position, the statement potentially misled residents, the media, other governments and the project proponent regarding Council's actual position.

The mayor's role as official spokesperson does not provide unrestricted authority to create Council policy or attribute an unapproved position to Council. A spokesperson communicates decisions and positions established by Council; the spokesperson does not independently manufacture those decisions.

I am asking that this has merit, and deserves an investigation, as the Code of Conduct is clear, and the evidence is attached.

I feel the mayor misrepresented Tantrammar with a clear false public statement.

This is unacceptable.

8:44

LTE 100%

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Replies

and admit your mayor did this without council input, and that perhaps she needs to be replaced by someone who understands that they are the servant in this and not the master. Talk to your fellow councilors and find out. We will all be waiting for your reply.

21h Liked Reply



Deputy Mayor Josh Goguen Tantramar - Ward 3

Andy Mills While Council didn't have the opportunity to review the statement before it was released, I want to be clear about my own position. I hold a different perspective on this decision and remain focused on addressing the concerns of the municipality.

12h Liked Reply

Deputy Mayor Josh Goguen

Tantramar - Ward 3 so the mayor made this decision on her own and didn't consult council? She is not allowed to do that under the bylaws. You also hold the power of speaking for all of council. So do any other members of council feel the same way and want to continue to fight - or are they giving up like the Mayor just did?

Just now Liked Reply



Write a reply...



3:55

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On behalf of Council, we recognize the significant public interest in the RIGS Gas Plant Project, and for the provincial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Council understands that our residents hold a range of perspectives on the project and we are appreciative for the continued engagement of community members throughout the process.

On August 28, 2026, GNB announced the EIA approval and the issuance of the Certificate of Determination with 45 conditions attached to project development continuing through the life cycle of the plant.

I want to thank and applaud the efforts of those opposed to this project and for bringing awareness to this project. Both the former and current Council of Tantramar opposed this project, but we must move forward with the expectation that all public concerns are reflected in the conditions attached to the certificate approval.

As the development moves forward, Council's role is to consider matters that fall within municipal jurisdiction while respecting the responsibilities of provincial and/or federal regulatory authorities.

The municipality encourages residents to rely on official sources of information for updates regarding the process. For further information related to the Certificate of Determination and the 45 conditions attached to the certificate please visit GNB's page: <https://www.gnb.ca/content/dam/GNB3/t/enr-ern/eia/docs/registrations-enregistrements/1642-1656/1651-conditions.pdf>

Attached is the following :

The press release by the Mayor - the authorized speaker for council

A public statement by Deputy Mayor Josh Goguen.

Remarks from Debbie Wiggins-Colwell regarding Code of Conduct Complaint

September 2, 2026 @ 12:48pm

Good afternoon,

My response to code of conduct, on Aug 27 @ 4pm zoom meeting with Minister LePage and his team on the EIA for gas plant, on Aug 28 after the embargo was lifted, a statement was written I reviewed it approved and signed it.

Thanks,

Mayor Debbie Wiggins-Colwell

(506) 540-1137

d.wiggins-colwell@TantramarNB.com

www.TantramarNB.com



We respectfully acknowledge that Tantramar, and the experiences within it, take place on the unceded traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq Peoples.

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