

THE MUNICIPAL ‘NAPOLEON COMPLEX’

DURHAM REGION - It appears that one municipality after the other are falling across Durham region. From Oshawa and it's many oppressive tactics under their belt. Like the notorious Robert Lutckzyc kidnapping of the City solicitor to the Dan Hammond assault on camera by City security and under-cover police. To the embarrassment at Pickering for going after one of it's own by deducting her pay for almost a year and a half. This leaving many wondering the lack of negotiation skills by the municipality. Even though the persecution is legal and proven in court. The question is it right and or moral? The seed of municipal shame is growing to just about every municipality. Just recently at the Region Regional Councillor Chris Leahy, who made public a \$1 million spend on a revolving door at the Regional Municipality of Durham, has fired yet another shot at the institution. He is claiming that a whistle blowers have sent him evidence to suggest Durham Regional government has equipped each of the four renovated kitchens with \$16,000 worth of refrigerators for a presumed grand total of \$64,000. The councillor has three motions coming to the Committee of the Whole on Wednesday September 10. Renovations to the Regional Headquarters and other facilities were conducted under the auspices of the Workplace Modernization Plan with an approved budget of \$53.8 million, Leahy said. Now it appears Clarington, Whitby are getting dragged in the mix of municipal manipulation of power. With Bill 9 on the side lines. A Bill that would give municipal-

ities the ability to get rid of elected officials based on the recommendation from paid by the municipality integrity commissioners is being watched very closely by many municipalities. Municipal critics are claiming that Bill 9 is nothing but an extension of ‘Strong Mayor Power’. That no elected official should be removed on the recommendation of paid staff. Primarily the integrity commissioner that have proven in the past to lack integrity. On Thursday, Tom Dingwall, a former Clarington Mayoral Candidate, posted on social media about threats he said he had allegedly received from Councillor Corinna Traill of Clarington. Dingwall says she didn't want him to run for mayor in the next election. He then detailed some of the alleged violent and offensive threats made to him and his family. Dingwall has not decided if he is running in the next municipal election. He says he's currently considering his options. Dingwall says a police investigation is now underway. However, as it involves a councillor and Dingwall is a former Durham police officer the matter is being investigated by another police force. The Municipality of Clarington says they will not be commenting on the situation as the matter is currently under police investigation. Yet, Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster takes this opportunity to grandstand and issued the following statement. “As Mayor of Clarington, I expect all members of Council to act with the highest level of integrity, accountability and respect. I am aware of the serious allegations that have recently surfaced, and I trust that this matter will be

appropriately investigated by the authorities. There is a concerning trend of toxic behaviour in municipal politics happening in Clarington and across the Province, undermining democracy and getting in the way of the important work we do to serve our communities. Under Clarington's Council Code of Conduct, members of Council are required to treat all members of the public appropriately and without abuse, bullying or intimidation. As elected officials, we must all be committed to upholding the principles of good governance and respectful discourse – because our community demands it.” Municipal critics argue that the Mayor should not be commenting on ongoing police investigation. Furthermore he claims that this toxic behaviour is the doing of some under-current group and fails to realize that most municipalities have chosen to take severe measure against tax payers and fellow council members that question the authority of the status quo. This ‘STRONG MAYORS’ power in many municipalities is being used as a tool to silence opposition and or control key decisions. The strong mayors power has opened the door to Mayors showcasing what is known in the psychiatric realm as the Napoleon complex. The Napoleon complex is the popular, non-clinical idea that a person, often a small man, compensates for feelings of inadequacy or inferiority by behaving aggressively, domineeringly, or bossily. This complex is associated with the reality that many of these Mayors having problems with the public and fellow councillors is due to the fact that many do not have the intellect, formal training to

operate as the head of mayor corporation like a modern day municipality. The fight with anyone opposing them or questioning their direction. Compounded with constant bombardment of lobbyists and their many financial persuasive ways. Mayors panic and turn on citizens and fellow council members. This has happened in Oshawa where the Mayor had no formal managerial training in the scale needed to run Oshawa and is highly dependant on staff. To Pickering where is staff has been weaponized to fight any opposition. Within or outside the municipal realm. In Clarington the limbo municipality is primarily run by staff and a Mayor that only shows up to grandstand on issues. Tom Dingwall released: Unfortunately I am writing to bring to your attention something that is deeply concerning. On August 28, 2025, I received a voicemail from Clarington Councillor Corinna Traill. Corinna directed me to stay out of next years mayoral race to allow her friend Joe Neal to run unencumbered. Miss Traill made it clear that if I did not, she would come to my home, kill me, and sexually assault my wife, then sexually assault her again. As a former mayoral candidate and a retired police officer, I've faced difficult situations before. This has crossed a line. A female Councillor threatening sexual violence against another women to further her political agenda is a new low. The safety of my family, and the safety of all families in our community is not negotiable. This matter has been reported to the police and I have every confidence that they will take appropriate action to protect my family and ensure

accountability. To be clear, no elected official, paid to represent us, should utilize intimidation or threats to dissuade anyone from pursuing elected office or engaging in public service, especially to the benefit of their friend. I have recently heard that the mayor's wife has been the target of social media posts that have caused her to fear for her safety as well. This behavior cannot become normalized or accepted in any way. As a community we can, and must do better. For the sake of our community, Councillor Traill must step down. Clarington deserves leaders who will bring people together, not tear them apart. I pray she will learn from this and get the help she needs. Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy, beset with issues with some council members, has spoken out on how toxic behaviour is impacting local government, and voiced her support for Bill 9, the Municipal Accountability Act. “Across Ontario, municipal leaders are being tested — not just by the growing demands of our communities, but by toxic political behaviour that is becoming far too common around local council tables,” she said in a recent release. “I'm experiencing it firsthand in Whitby – and it's some of the worst I've seen in my 30 years in municipal politics,” she pointed out. 30 years in politics is something that has many municipal critics concerned. These are not community leaders but careered politicians that in many cases lost touch with the need of the people. This opening the door to the Napoleon complex. “We've had to navigate breaches of council's code of conduct, harmful misinformation, and personal attacks —

not just directed at myself and members of council, but town staff as well,” she said. Mayor Roy said toxic behaviour and repeated ethics violations are threatening the function of local democracy, deterring new voices from seeking office and, in some cases, driving dedicated public servants out of government altogether. This type of logic is what hinder when it comes to solutions. Instead of recognizing that the Napoleon complex is at play and that the old boys collusion club is very much active. Roy tries to pass down the responsibility to the people questioning her authority and supporting getting more power as a Mayor. “It's why I support the Ontario government's reintroduction of Bill 9, the Municipal Accountability and Integrity Act, 2025, Right now, the tools available to municipalities are inadequate. Even in the most egregious instances, councils can only suspend pay, she pointed out Bill 9 would allow removal of a council member with a recommendation by Ontario's Integrity Commissioner followed by a unanimous vote from council members. At the end of the day, municipal critics have argued that the bill is nothing more than oppressive unconstitutional and a real threat to the democratic process as it leaves the door open as it stand collusion, corruption, bribe taking, no accountability as anyone challenging would be ousted. This further compounding that this type of legal collusion would also go unchecked and city councils would not be transparent and or accountable to no one.

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