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**Sent:** April 25, 2012 4:00 PM

To the City of Barrie's Clerk,

Please add the following to the circulation list:

Last week, it was reported by Bob Bruton that the City of Barrie had decided on its arts grants recipients for this year. One of them is Glenn Coulson. He was awarded \$2,500.00. I allege that he worked for the City of Barrie for the Department of Culture when he made the application for the grant, and when he was awarded it. I feel that this breaches a conflict of interest, and if the cheque has not been provided yet, I want it not to be provided. I would appreciate it if Mr. Coulson returned the money, if it has already been provided.

I have written to Rudi Quammie Williams, the Director of Culture and he tells me that I am wrong, yet he does not say where I am wrong. He offers me a private chat, and refuses to answer me in writing, as I asked him to do. I am now writing to all of you at once, in the hope that my questions will be answered. I am also, as I continue to work on fixing a mistake (that every member of Barrie City Council missed, along with the staff at the Department of Culture), changes I feel that need to be adopted as policy. For that, I expect to be compensated as a consultant. I expect \$2,500.00 for my work, when it is completed. If the City does not wish to do so, there is nothing I may do about it. Consultation work seems to be often reserved for friends of those already in government, and they are taken seriously, and paid for what they say, and granted money they do not really need. I am used to it, and will work for no compensation. All that I may do, is ask, while Mayor Lehman places Mike Montague on the short list for realtors, to consult, for another matter.

Before I begin here, I need to say that I do not allege that Councillor Robinson had anything to do with Mr. Coulson receiving the grant.

My unanswered complaints and allegations to Mr. Williams are as follows:

1 Mr. Coulson works with a Barrie City Councillor in a media job, and asked the same local government for a media/arts grant while his co-worker holds a seat. Councillor Robinson acted to protect Glenn's job with the City of Barrie, when the expense was questioned at a Council meeting by Councillor Silveira.

2 Mr. Coulson already is paid indirectly via grants from the Department of Culture to work for Theatre by the Bay, and has been, for years.

3 Mr. Coulson already works for the City of Barrie, himself, and did so when he made the application.

4 Mr. Coulson works specifically for the Department of Culture to which he made the grant application.

5 Mr. Coulson received \$2,500.00 from the same Department of Culture that he works for.

My new complaint is that an organization led by a standing candidate for a political party, Andrew Miller of the Green Party of Ontario, received \$9,000.00. We almost had to call an election, yesterday. The grant would have led strength to whatever it is Mr. Miller is trying to achieve with Back to Basics, and his party. Mr. Miller is already on the City's Environmental Committee. I want that grant canceled, as well. Or, returned and given to any other group that asked for it. Due to the amount of the grant, I expect it likely will not be given back. Thus the reason why I want to be compensated for the work that I do, here, fixing and cleaning up what I allege is the mess of money given away to people already having an official relationship with the City. It is mess nobody else has noted, or cared to remedy.

The draft of my recommendations which I will continue to work on, are:

1. No grant applications are to be accepted by anyone already working for the City of Barrie, or their family members, or working with an active member of Barrie City Council at another job.

2. No grant applications are to be accepted by anyone or their organization who is that riding's candidate for a political party, unless that person agrees not to run if an election is not active when they apply for the grant, and if they do, they have to pay the money back, with interest and a penalty fee.

3. No City of Barrie committee may recommend for hire a member of that committee, itself, unless nobody else is available to do the specific job that is needed. Steps should be taken before the committee begins work to note whether or not any member of it may be offered a job with the City of Barrie as recommended by the committee.

4. No contributions are to be made to any fundraising effort by those already employed by it, until after it is completed.

What follows is my review of a City of Barrie staff report, with some comments and questions which were directed towards Mr. Williams, and are. And yet now they are directed to him and/or anybody else at the City who wants to answer them. Two spelling errors by me have been fixed from the earlier version. This material relies upon an attachment, which Council already has an email copy of, and do once more, with this email. I leave it to you to decide whether it needs to be printed to accompany this email, when filed.

With staff report DOC005-11 dated December 5, 2011, submitted by R. Williams to General Committee, attached, it recommends, in paragraph 2, that the existing contract with Mr. Glenn Coulson be extended.

With paragraph 5, it says that a Steering Committee was formed. Mr. Coulson was a member of it, and it recommended that "the City of Barrie hire the services of professional fundraisers."

With paragraph 6, the Committee recommended that Mr. Coulson be hired. The Committee that Mr. Coulson was a member of, recommended that Mr. Coulson be hired. What a coincidence. No other fundraisers available? He was hired. Mr. Coulson therefore works for the City of Barrie and was working for the City when he made his grant application and that is the conflict of interest. Mr. Coulson made a grant application to the City of Barrie when he was already working for it. Hiring people from Toronto to do the intake for the applications does not change this.

With paragraph 7, it says that the fundraisers will be paid from construction project funds and will then be paid back from the fund raising monies. Ergo, Mr. Coulson gets paid, first, by a fund created by the City of Barrie and then, the money is paid back, as he goes along.

Is Mr. Coulson paid by the City of Barrie or not?

Is the Mady an asset of the City of Barrie or not? The City of Barrie's website says it is, here:

[www.barrie.ca/culture/theatres/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.barrie.ca/culture/theatres/Pages/default.aspx)

Is the Mady then a private corporation, and does Mr. Coulson work for that, or for the fund that was created to pay him by the City, and not the City itself? Has the fund become a corporation, too? Why do you say that I am wrong? Please share your facts with everyone.

With paragraph 14, the Department of Culture recommends that Mr. Coulson's contract be extended.

And you say I am wrong to say that Mr. Coulson does work for the Department of Culture? What department is it, then? What city is it, then?

With paragraph 17, Mr. Coulson's personality is cited. A degree as a fundraiser is not.

Your requirements for employment are different, I allege, for different people. Where is the requirement of a Fine Arts degree for Mr. Coulson?

With paragraph 23, Mr. Coulson's rate of \$30.00 per hour for each 20 hour week is cited. This is on City of Barrie paper, from City of Barrie staff.

Is Mr. Coulson working for some other entity, if not the City of Barrie? What is it?

With paragraph 24, it says that "the City of Barrie has paid the Campaign Coordinator," and Mr. Coulson is the Campaign Coordinator.

I rest my case.

As a man born and raised here, and as an arts graduate of Barrie's own Georgian College, and a contributor of literary and graphic arts for over eleven years with no grants, and as a person who has stood for office five times, I demand that Mr. Coulson give back the grant, and that policy I initiated alone, and will keep working on until completed, be adopted and applied as soon as possible, so that this breach of a conflict of interest does not happen again.

I look forward to your reply for all of my concerns, in writing. I am not averse to a chat, later, yet this has to be done the proper way. In public, in writing. Your offer to speak, only, and never to write, is not as complete and friendly as it should be, and as a government employee, needs to be.

Regards, and please take a moment to reply when it is available.

THIS ENDS ANY OF THE PREVIOUS MATERIAL

If this is circulated, I welcome any comments from anyone on Council, or from the Department of Culture, and do especially encourage them to raise this at the next Council meeting. If not, I will keep working on these improvements, and will attempt to have Councillor Prowse put them on the floor, when completed.

To reiterate, I allege that Mr. Coulson worked for the City of Barrie and did so specifically for the Department of Culture when he made the application for a grant from that department, and was working for the same department when he received the grant. This is a bold conflict of interest.

Darren Roskam