

Dear Mr. Swayze,

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Please bear with me. I have a tendency to get long winded, especially when dealing with a blatant injustice. It has come to my attention recently that you feel it's your prerogative as Integrity Commissioner to violate a private citizen's right to privacy by mentioning them in a public report to Greater Sudbury City Council. That private citizen, as you well know, is myself, Valerie Marie Kirwan, wife of Robert T. Kirwan, City Councillor.

You, of all people, are well aware that he has many people constantly attacking and reporting him because he stands up for what he believes in and isn't afraid to do so. Unlike the complainant in this matter who is hiding and wants to remain anonymous. So much for having transparency that you point out in your report. If this person wants to make such accusations and drag someone's reputation through the mud, with no evidence, and throw a private person into the mix no less, because they have nothing else to complain about in order to try and stop Robert T. Kirwan from continuing to stand up for his beliefs, then the least they should do is put their name to their baseless accusations. Anyone off the street can make a false complaint and then hide, leaving it up to the victim to try and clear their name. I can guarantee that the majority of those complaints are from people that I have blocked from our Valley East FB group over the years or other special interest groups who are desperate to muzzle him....and now, obviously, myself. If they think this will silence me, they don't know who they are dealing with. That's a fact, not a threat.

Did you know there are other Valley East groups out there that were started by those blocked members? Their sole purpose is to attack, fabricate stories and criticize myself and my husband and spread lies. It might serve you well to visit those other sites to see the type of people who you are choosing to believe and protect. They are upset because I blocked them over the years for breaking our group rules, so they spread lies and falsehoods to try and get people on their side. No proof is needed or has to be provided to prove those lies and falsehoods, much like this last complaint to you. You did no research into why I do what I do, you just accepted the lies as something villainous. You are accepting that what this complainant has said is true, even though they themselves won't stand behind their own accusations. They just want to see how far they can get you to push against my husband, and now, myself, a private citizen.

As administrator of the Valley East Community News Group, I can say the sky is blue on a beautiful clear summer day, and there would be members on our group that will attack me and say I'm lying. It doesn't matter what I say, I am attacked. Such is social media. Having said that, as an admin on the Valley East Community News group, over the years some unhappy members have blocked me so I can't see what they post or comment. In that light, I need to be able to see what's going on in order to keep some semblance of order on the group, hence another account made as an administrator. It doesn't matter if you don't like it or the complainant doesn't like it. Neither of you have no control over what I do! As an integrity commissioner it's your job to take information and search out what is the truth and what is lies. What you report on and what you don't. These anonymous complainants want to manipulate the outcome that they want. They don't want the truth. They are out to ruin reputations and yet are allowed to hide behind people such as yourself. They shouldn't be allowed to have their cake and eat it too. Maybe you should ask yourself if these anonymous accusers have complained about any of our other members who post/comment their support for my husband, or something negative against

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another city employee, or is it just me that's their target? What are they afraid of? Ask yourself that.

How dare you think you have some kind of power or control over me when I am not an employee of the City or have any say in how it's run? I'm sure you have heard of the phrase "Abuse of Power". You admit in your report that you have no jurisdiction over a private citizen of Sudbury, or any city for that matter. Yet here you are contradicting your own words by taking it upon yourself to abuse my right to privacy and throwing my privacy out the window. You are basically saying I have no right to my own thoughts and am incapable of making my own decisions unless I run it past my husband first. You are insulting me not only as an individual, but as a woman, and every other female out there, who with civility, speaks up for what we believe in. Your report isn't worth the paper it's written on!

I wonder how the women who read your contradictory report will take to your accusation that we can't think for ourselves, or worse yet, shouldn't be allowed to think for ourselves? Because that is what your report is attacking me for. Let me ask you this. If the genders were reversed and I was the Councillor and my husband was in my position, would you be so willing to say he has no right to his own thoughts or comments? Or is it just women you have issues with for thinking for themselves? Would you be trying to silence him as well by violating his privacy rights? I don't know what century you are living in, but the Victorian Age where the good little wife sits back, is seen and never allowed to be heard, are long gone. Women fought hard for their rights and to have a voice. I will not be silenced by someone such as yourself or any complainant.

Bob and I have been married for almost 50 years Mr. Swayze. If you are married I don't know how your relationship works, but in all those years my husband has never told me what I should think, what I should write, or that I should agree with him on every aspect of his life, private or public. I'm appalled by your behavior. You are supposedly knowledgeable but your behavior is proving otherwise. Perhaps the question in all of this should be, who is pressuring you to make such statements in your report? Again, no one gave you the power to have control over me or any other City employees' spouse. Yet you take it upon yourself to violate my privacy. Remember, your title is the "Integrity" Commissioner. Where in your job description does it say you can go after the spouse of a city employee, violate their privacy and make it public, all due to some anonymous complaint? Your job is to do what's right and should be to protect innocent people. I can not stress this enough to everyone!

Believe me, I did not get to the age of 70 without being able to think for myself. I take great offense to the fact that you think I am a puppet. That I am not capable of making my own decisions. Whether those thoughts and decisions are under my name or under an account that I had to make in order to protect my access to our Valley East Community News FB group has nothing to do with you. Nothing. For you to presume otherwise is laughable. I find it difficult to understand how a person in your position can't understand that. Have you ever been hacked Mr. Swayze? Threatened? Perhaps if you had you would understand the necessity of being able to access a FB group of almost 18,000 people. It's basically a small city. No one can be on top of every word that its residents speak or write. Yet you are expecting us to be aware of the hundreds of thousands of comments/posts and reactions on our group from real and fake accounts. As long as those fake accounts don't cause issues, they stay. We aren't clueless, we

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know they're out there. I do have a life and can't be reading the group activity 24 hours a day. Ten to twelve hours is all I can afford to give up each day. Our group has over 2,000 people blocked because of their inability to follow simple group rules. These are the people you are protecting.

It appears you aren't aware of how FB works. FB gives admins certain tools to do their job properly. They overhaul and change with no notification most times. For the longest time all names appeared in blue lettering. If a member had me blocked personally I couldn't see what they put on the group. It's my job to try and keep the group safe. We have people afraid to post on the group for fear of being attacked and ridiculed. Something I don't put up with and will take action accordingly. Members will send us articles or information they want us to share for them because of that fear. Then FB changed it so admins could see these people that have admins blocked, but they then showed up in black or grey lettering and I still couldn't send messages, see their profiles, or contact them in any way. You'll be hard pressed to find any decent FB group that would allow those people to stay members on their group. A person's profile says volumes about who they are, and I try to be careful with who I allow to join. Yes, some get through and I apologize to all our members for letting those slip in, but I deal with those as they come up.

The last big change was a few months ago where all names now appear in black. So it's impossible, at a glance, to see which people have me blocked. As mentioned, it's my job to keep such a large group as safe as I possibly can. Not always possible, but I do my best. So most admins have other accounts in order to check out these members and have access to their groups if they themselves have ever been hacked. There's nothing criminal or evil going on with it. It's part of being a responsible admin of a large group with diverse people as members that have varying, sometimes very differing opinions that can go off the rails in an instant. You are punishing me for taking the necessary precautions to protect the group. The fact that anonymous doesn't like it, is of no concern of mine and definitely no concern of yours!

Do you run any large FB groups Mr. Swayze? Do you have any idea what it entails daily? As to your reference to an IT "professional" saying it's not necessary for admins to have other accounts, I can assure you I can find others who say yes, it is necessary. So that's a mute point. We can go back and forth all day long saying my IT guy says this or my IT guy says that, so you are misleading anyone reading your report. Saying that it's not necessary for admins to be able to access all members' profiles in order to keep some sort of order on our large group puts you in the same group as those I have blocked and shows how little you know about FB groups. They want to be able to say and do whatever they want, whenever they want, without any consequences much like yourself right now. It's not going to happen under my watch! I am a member of the community regardless of what account I post under.

I find it interesting that you would point out that one comment I made years ago under my second account when commenting on other candidates. I believe that's beyond the 60 day window where you are allowed to publicly share any information regarding a case you are working on, is it not? Please correct me if I'm wrong on that point, or again, is there a second set of rules for you and private citizens? Sounds like anonymous has an axe to grind and didn't like what I said about them at some

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point. That narrows down the list doesn't it. So by protecting them you are allowing this type of person to possibly throw their hat into the election ring again. Does that fall into your idea of being transparent with the public?? I guess there are rules for some and not for others when transparency comes into play? Transparency from me a private citizen, as an admin of a large FB group is demanded from you, but not for people wanting to remain anonymous so they can continue lying and manipulating people. I see how it works now.

Yes, circumstances have me married to a City Councillor for Greater Sudbury....for better or worse. Those circumstances do not make me fair game for anyone who wants to remain anonymous to lie and report my actions to you, the Integrity Commissioner. I am not under your jurisdiction! In your position you should have immediately told them you have no right to try and take any action against me, yet we know what side you chose. Why? Who are you protecting? That word "integrity" needs to come into play. If someone is going to accuse myself, my husband or any other city Councillor or city employee, and they can't stand behind those accusations by wanting to remain anonymous, then you sir need to take those accusations for what they are worth. Nothing. What happened to our right to know who is making false accusations? These cowards want to discredit anyone who they don't agree with, and in order to push their own agendas they have to deflect attention to someone who they deem a threat to their self serving agendas. Robert T. Kirwan has been, and always will be a target for the low life type who throw out false accusations because he does what's right and what's best for Greater Sudbury as a whole. We all know human nature has a tendency to believe lies someone will spread about a public figure without any proof. Put it out there, keep feeding the lies, and some people will believe, without a care if it's truthful or not. This is how these cowards get their thrills. No consequences, no evidence required, and people like yourself who will believe them. Unfortunately it comes with the territory. I guess I had hoped someone in your position would work within the parameters of your job description and leave me out of it, or at the very least protect me, the innocent party. You have clearly stepped over the line in this instance.

Sadly, this appears to me as some sort of revenge. Revenge on Robert T. Kirwan for having a motion passed earlier this year stating he didn't feel it was fair for Councillors to hand out consequences to each other that you wanted imposed when another anonymous coward sends in a complaint. You have made assumptions about me, so I'll assume you weren't happy with his Motion. Just to be clear, my thoughts, my words no help from anyone!

Have you ever asked yourself why these people want Robert T. Kirwan or myself to be silenced? Do we get too close to the truth? Do we get too close to knowing who they are? Do we put a kink in their backroom plans to stop the KED? This begs the question to be asked, when else have you had outside pressure to make a decision that you know isn't right, but that another anonymous complainant is pressuring you to do for their own gain? Do you have any consequences for your behavior?

The fact remains that my right to privacy has been violated and you are the one responsible. You may have gotten away with your behavior when practicing law without being held accountable by twisting words as happens in court rooms because sadly it's allowed. Win at all cost! But I sir am holding you responsible for any impact your abuse of power will have on my health and personal life. You abused

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your power and are trying to smear my name, a private citizen. Who will be next?

So, send me an affidavit as well and I'll sign it, legally saying this letter was written by me Valerie Marie Kirwan, and only me. No one pressured or coerced me into writing any of it. No one gave any input other than asking my husband for your email address. Does that count as collusion? Imagine, all the thoughts and words are my own and no help from any male figure. Robert T. Kirwan has never, I repeat NEVER posted or commented under any account that I have as an administrator. Again, I am quite able to think for myself. So what do you want me to sign Mr. Swayze to prove I'm telling the truth? Would a lie detector work for you? You've opened a can of worms, now everyone has to deal with it! However, all spouses of city employees across the country better be on alert. Be forewarned. You aren't allowed to think/speak for yourself and can become the target of the next coward who has their own agenda because of people such as yourself. You have given them the power, and the innocent victims will keep piling up. How can I or anyone else trust your word ever again?

Am I to thank you Mr. Swayze for the added, deliberate and unnecessary stress this has caused and continues to cause me due to your lack of professional conduct? Do Integrity Commissioners have a Code of Conduct? I have to ask myself why this person is so adamant about remaining anonymous. If what they say is true, then why hide? Are they afraid that if they are found out, the public would know their true colors and where they stand by trying to silence a 70 year old woman? Are they that desperate that they have to attack a grandmother because none of their other underhanded, lie filled tactics against my husband have been working?

You have overstepped your self perceived power to publicly attack a private citizen and ruin my good name for no reason, other than someone wants to try and subdue my husband. How very sad on your part. I have some chronic health issues that are exacerbated by stress. They are in high gear, thank you, and will be for quite some time to come from this fiasco you have caused! Trying to punish me and choosing to ignore my right to privacy is below your position as Integrity Commissioner. Not only because I am female and married to a councillor who an anonymous coward wants to attack, but because I am not under your jurisdiction. You have no rights to tell me what I can or can not do, what I can or can not think, or what I can or can not write. Yet I was willing to give that up in order to keep my privacy. Something I shouldn't have had to ask for from someone in your position. I offered my political silence in exchange for you not breaking my right to privacy, with no reply from you. We can all see how you handled that request from me.

If this is a way for the complainant to get my husband to back off and stop fighting for what he believes in, then you and this cowardly complainant are barking up the wrong tree. If anything, this has cemented his constant search for the truth and I will most definitely continue to encourage him to not back down from such people. He will always do what's right for the residents of Greater Sudbury. As much as some men think women are the weaker sex, in this instance, you are not going after the weakest link in the chain. I won't back down when I have been wrongly accused of anything and my name smeared in public for absolutely no reason, other than you are receiving pressure to keep me quiet. It's ironic that you are in a position to dole out reprimands and consequences to city employees

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for their perceived bad behavior, yet you have no consequences for your behavior in attacking the spouse of one such employee and trying to tell me what I can and can't write on social media on my own group. Is that what power does to a person? They think they are above reproach?

Mr. Swayze you, myself and Mr/Ms Anonymous aren't naïve enough to think that the truth won't come out eventually. It can not be hidden forever. This type of person can't help but be smug. They can't keep something like this to themselves. They have to take a bow for the attack and they will talk. They can't help it. They want their buddies to know, to put them on some sort of pedestal. They will talk to someone who they think they can trust. Have one too many drinks around a back yard fire and spill the beans. The truth does eventually come out regardless of how anyone tries to keep it under wraps. It may not be today, tomorrow or even next year, but the truth will come out and I will be waiting.

After all is said and done Mr. Swayze, I am still left wondering why you so adamantly are siding with and respecting the right to privacy of an anonymous individual. An individual who has spewed lies that you yourself dismissed as untrue, and have dismissed in the past. An individual who is trying to mislead the residents of Greater Sudbury with those lies. An individual who is afraid to stand by their own accusations publicly, so they hide behind you and you protect them. Yet you had absolutely no qualms when it came to disrespecting my right to privacy as a private citizen. A private citizen no less who is not covered in any way, shape or form under your jurisdiction as an "Integrity" Commissioner? Did you have to search to find some kind of perceived wrong doing on my part to prove to anonymous you at least took action against one of us? Not being able to find evidence against my husband, because there is none, you allowed to give Mr/Ms Anonymous one of our heads on a platter to keep them happy. You used your position to go after a private citizen. I would hang my head in shame if I were you.

The only conclusion that you Mr. Swayze have left myself and anyone else who reads this is that this cowardly sneak is well known to the residents of Greater Sudbury, or at least well known on Facebook. Perhaps they are still a member of our group, and in order not to be blocked for their behavior, they want to be able to stick around in order to continue using and twisting our posts and comments against us? Perhaps even a public figure whose reputation would be negatively impacted if everyone knew what they have done, or more importantly, what you have allowed them to do? Have no fear. The truth will be known, and I refuse to be silenced.

Mr. Swayze is your privacy important to you? What makes their privacy more important than yours or mine? Had you bothered to do your due diligence in this matter instead of being in a hurry to appease and protect this anonymous "person" to give them one of our heads on that proverbial platter, you would have learned why my privacy is so important. We get daily shall I say politely, nasty private messages. We get threats. Threats that have been serious enough for the police to get involved in at times. This is what FB has come too. This is why I take precautions with anything I put online under my account or another. So for you to so blatantly disregard my right to privacy as a private citizen, even though you have absolutely no authority over me to do so, possibly putting me in potential danger and open to more threats, is beyond despicable and another abuse of your self proclaimed power.

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I've been asking myself lately why we even continue to run our News group. Is it really worth the stress of dealing with that segment of society that is hell bent on attacking and threatening us? Then I realize that those are the exceptions and there are many more people who appreciate what the site offers. The news keeping them up to date with what's happening in our area, city news, missing people, the sharing of good news and not so good news that we can all commiserate with and offer congratulations or even our sympathies. Birthdays, graduations and celebrations, lost pets that people are desperate to get back home and yes, even road conditions during winter months. So no, these cowards will not stop me from running this group as a service to the community. I refuse to punish thousands of members because people such as yourself protect the cowards while throwing people like myself to the wolves.

I have to admit I feel embarrassed for you Mr. Swayze. Embarrassed that you, the Integrity Commissioner, allowed yourself to be used in nothing more than a witch hunt. A witch hunt you allowed someone with a vendetta against my husband to be further used against myself, and I reiterate, **a private citizen who you unequivocally and absolutely have no authority over whatsoever**. A witch hunt by someone who doesn't even have the courage to stand behind their own false and misleading accusations publicly. It's a sad day for honesty and justice that you have allowed such a misuse of your position.

You can be assured that I will diligently be monitoring my private messages and emails from here on out for further threats because of your actions, and who knows, perhaps even clues from someone that knows something about anonymous and does believe in a person's right to privacy and wants to do what's right, unlike yourself Mr. Swayze.

I'm sure you've heard of the Philosopher Plato. I leave you with one of his more famous quotes. And believe me, the hate out there towards my husband, and myself from those who couldn't see the truth if it hit them in the face, is more than transparent for everyone to see!

***"No man is more hated, than he who speaks the truth"....Plato***

Valerie Marie Kirwan

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