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### Media blamed for whistleblowers

By RICK BELL, CALGARY SUN

Last Updated: March 17, 2011 11:37pm

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The city's top bureaucrat blames the media for a spike in whistleblower complaints lodged at city hall last year.

Members of the city's audit committee heard Thursday the number of calls to the city's anonymous hotline almost doubled in 2010 from the year before to 101, with about two-thirds leading to further investigations.

City manager Owen Tobert said the jump in complaints was likely linked to charges of procurement fraud last year from since-fired auditor Tracy McTaggart.

"When people see something in the media and they feel like they have a grudge or they harbour a grudge they bring it forward," Tobert told committee members.

McTaggart's claims ultimately spurred an external investigation that unearthed no cases of fraud but several instances of sloppy bookkeeping and poor procedures.

Among the wrongdoings investigated by the city's audit department, two employees in the city's planning department spent a golf weekend at a cabin owned by an individual representing developers wanting to do business with the city.

Punishments for the transgressions ranged from warning letters to a handful of days off without pay.

New city auditor Todd Horbasenko said he plans to hire four more people and still be within his budget, and will look at the whistleblower program to see how it can be strengthened.

Audit committee member Diane Colley-Urquhart said despite the disclosure, "there's still a lot of unanswered questions."

Tobert said there is still work to be done and it's ongoing.

"We've done a lot. Nothing is ever over. Did you not know that?"

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Waaaaaaah!! KUDOS to the media for exposing the corrupt government currently in place. Time to remember this at the polls people!!

[Jodie Doreen McCrindle](#), March 18th 2011, 9:58am

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