



## Shuffle leaves 2 councillors fuming

### Michael Thompson loses TTC post, Joe Mihevc turfed as chair of community development

November 17, 2008

**DONOVAN VINCENT**  
CITY HALL BUREAU

Two councillors – including a member of the mayor's executive – are steamed after losing key positions in David Miller's slight shuffle of city hall committees.

Though he asked to remain one of nine councillors on the Toronto Transit Commission, Michael Thompson was turfed yesterday.

And Councillor Joe Mihevc, who typically votes with the mayor, was bumped as chair of the community development and recreation committee, the group responsible for issues such as homelessness, daycare, social services and recreational programs.

Thompson blamed his circumstances on the fact he was part of an active push at city hall to get the TTC declared an essential service, a move Miller opposed.

And Mihevc, chair of community development since early 2004, said he "absolutely" wanted to stay on in his role and views Miller's move as a "firing." Mihevc remains a member of the committee, but is being replaced as chair by Councillor Janet Davis, currently the vice-chair.

Both Davis and Mihevc remain members of Miller's powerful executive committee.

Meanwhile, Councillors Mark Grimes and Paul Ainslie were appointed to the Toronto Zoo board of management, replacing councillors Mike Del Grande and Thompson, who resigned recently after the board fired the zoo's foundation – a volunteer board responsible for fundraising.

On Friday, Miller defended his decision to appoint Davis as chair of community development, saying he did so to strike a gender balance on major committees, not because of lack of confidence in Mihevc's leadership. Davis' appointment means that, excluding the executive, which Miller chairs, women now chair half of the top committees at city hall.

"She (Davis) earned the right to chair. Because of her interest and background in social services, the right committee for her to chair is (community development)," Miller said. "At a time when I've been leading a national campaign to get more women involved in politics, I think that's an important statement."

The moves, and a few others approved by a committee that endorses Miller's appointments, will be before city council next month for a final vote.

Councillor Ron Moeser will replace Thompson as a TTC commissioner, a sought-after position.

Councillor Maria Augimeri replaces Glenn De Baeremaeker as a commissioner. But De Baeremaeker, who also chairs the busy public works committee – overseeing a massive agenda that includes garbage, water and roads – said he had volunteered to step aside, given his heavy workload.

Thompson was part of the push to take away the right of TTC workers to strike, but the bid was blocked at city council last month by a narrow 23-22 vote. Miller opposed the essential services designation. He and others argued it would result in the use of binding arbitration to settle contract disputes, thus leading to higher awards for the union, and increased costs for the city.