

TORONTO CITY COUNCILLORS

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The Honourable Jim Watson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

November 26, 2008

Dear Mr. Minister,

Re: Election Campaign Finance Reform for the City of Toronto

Thank you for meeting with us on November 24th to discuss Election Campaign Finance Reform for the City of Toronto. We appreciated this opportunity to discuss this important issue with someone who has a firsthand knowledge of municipal affairs.

You acknowledged that you are already considering certain pressing Election Reform issues and that Cabinet approval for an action plan will be required. Any action plan for reform would involve stakeholder consultations and the usual legislative process. Consequently, we understand that it would be very optimistic to expect comprehensive reform in the 13 months prior to the January 1, 2010 kickoff of the next municipal elections.

Since the City of Toronto has formally requested these changes for the last four years and has completed the groundwork to support this request, it presents you with a unique opportunity to achieve certain changes more quickly on a limited basis. You noted that Toronto has provided you with the output of extensive consultations which included not only successful candidates, but also unsuccessful candidates. Conducting a "pilot" program for the 2010 municipal election in Toronto, together with those other pressing changes you've identified, would also inform your decisions on subsequent comprehensive electoral reform for smaller municipalities, if you and your colleagues so choose.

The people of Toronto want Council decisions unfettered by undue influence. They also want to preserve the electoral process and ensure it is not compromised as a result of electoral financial contributions of big business or workers' unions. Torontonians want to maintain confidence in their elected representatives. Cleaning up election financing and enforcement of the rules will help restore respect for all elected officials.

We look forward to a positive resolution from you and your staff on this issue.

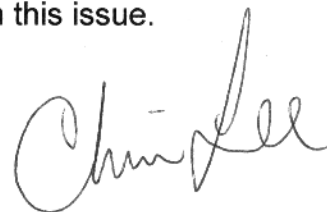
Sincerely,



Michael Walker
Councillor – Ward 22
St. Paul's



Cliff Jenkins
Councillor – Ward 25
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