

Notice of Motion
Toronto City Council
December 15-16, 1999

Re: Secession of the City of Toronto from the Province of Ontario

“Let the People Decide”

WHEREAS, the City of Toronto precipitated a referendum around the then proposed creation of the new “Megacity, back in 1997; and

WHEREAS, that referendum initiative precipitated an extensive public debate and outrage on the part of many citizens which forced the Provincial Government to slow down its amalgamation legislation; and

WHEREAS, that City initiative provoked changes in the proposed Provincial Legislation after consultation with the citizens of the City of Toronto; and

WHEREAS, the worst predictions of amalgamation are unfolding at this present time, namely the Provincial Government downloading significant new responsibilities to the City of Toronto without any additional funding; and

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government has shortchanged the taxpayers and citizens of the City of Toronto in the amount of \$251 million each year through their downloading exercise despite promises that it would be revenue neutral; and

WHEREAS, the Province has unilaterally issued a new “dictate” reorganizing the City once again, with no provision whatsoever for consultation and possible amendments; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of the City of Toronto are shortchanged by the Provincial and Federal Government to the tune of \$6 billion dollars, - i.e. taking \$6 billion more out of the economy annually than they return in the form of spending; and

WHEREAS, these two levels of government refuse to issue any additional funding to help this City deal with its homelessness and housing problem, its transportation system; and

WHEREAS, there is no end in sight to the attacks against the City of Toronto on behalf of the Provincial Government.

WHEREAS, economic trends such as globalization and free trade are stimulating the emergence of the City-state as a key political entity; and

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government has demonstrated time after time, their willingness to utilize their power without mandate, to change the administration of governance within the City of Toronto to their advantage, and to the extreme disadvantage of the City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The City of Toronto hold a public referendum as part of the 2000 municipal election to determine public support for proceeding with separation from the Province
- 2) Appropriate staff from the City of Toronto develop an extensive communications package outlining the argument (financial and social) for and against separation and a plan to provoke full participation and debate on the part of the citizens prior to the referendum.

Moved by: Councillor Walker

Seconded by : Councillor Silva