Putting Toronto Communities First!

TORONTO COMMUNITY BOARDS

“Draw the Line” – New Ward Boundaries

1. In 2014, Toronto City Council approved an expenditure of $800,000 to conduct a Ward Boundaries review in 2014, 2015 and 2016. This may result in new Wards and additional City Councillors.

2. INSTEAD, the next elected City Council should strongly consider recommending to residents that: the 23 Provincial Riding Boundaries be adopted as the Municipal (Ward) Boundaries; the number of City Councillors be reduced to 23; and 23 Community Board Districts be created under the Toronto Municipal Code.

3. The advantages to communities and the City:
   a) eliminate the routine duplication of work (and costs) by the City and Province in determining different voting and service districts
   b) create better management and reporting on City and Agency activities by creating Community Districts, assigning staff, and working with communities through the Community Boards
   c) provide an effective vehicle for the City, Province and their Agencies to communicate directly with the communities they serve through Community Boards
   d) importantly provide democratic, inclusive, efficient and effective public consultation through the Community Boards
   e) provide an efficient and effective means for residents to communicate their ideas, needs, problems and solutions to the City and Province through Community Boards
   f) Community Boards legislation will ensure transparent and accountable government

4. This is an opportunity to create voting and city service District boundaries that do not divide communities.

5. Comparison of Toronto versus New York City:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Toronto</th>
<th>NYC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of City Councillors</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population (million)</td>
<td>2.542</td>
<td>8.404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councillor per population</td>
<td>1:57,772</td>
<td>1:164,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Area (km²)</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Ridings/NYC Community Districts</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Population/Riding-NYC Community District</td>
<td>110,526</td>
<td>142,440</td>
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- New York City (NYC) has a 25% greater land area and 3.3 times the population of Toronto.
- NYC has 51 City Councillors and up to 2,950 (50 x 59 Community Boards) citizen Community Board members providing input directly to City Council.
- Toronto has 44 Councillors and receives no formal input from the communities they serve.

6. Options are to:
   a) add more Toronto Councillors at an approximate cost of $400,000 per Councillor per annum , or
   b) reduce the size of City Council to around 23 and, create Toronto Community Boards with up to 1,150 citizen Board members (50 x 23) providing input into city government.

For more information on legislation to create Toronto Community Boards, please go to website: LAKESHORE PLANNING COUNCIL CORP. 
http://lakeshoreplanningcouncil.com/community-boards/

For information on “Draw the Lines”: http://www.drawthelines.ca/