

THE TORONTO PARTY

FOR A BETTER CITY

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TORONTO PARTY FOR A BETTER CITY. THE TORONTO PARTY WAS CREATED IN OCTOBER 2006 AND IS CURRENTLY TORONTO'S ONLY CIVIC ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION.

EYE ON COUNCIL

WINTER 2014 ISSUE

NEW MAYOR, OLD COUNCIL

IS IT TIME FOR MUNICIPAL PARTIES AT CITY HALL?

Monday, October 27, 2014 saw the election of John Tory as the new Mayor of Toronto. Mr. Tory defeated former Councillor Doug Ford and former Member of Parliament Olivia Chow for the top job.

While the Toronto Party congratulates Mr. Tory on his victory and supports his vision to tackle transportation and



More inside!



Constitutional Challenge

The Toronto Party is currently engaged in a Constitutional challenge of Ontario's *Municipal Election Act, 1996*.

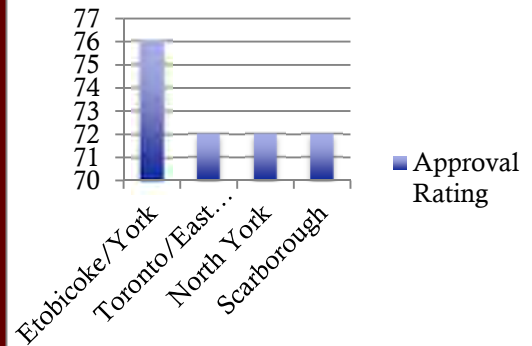
We believe that the Act's failure to formally recognize civic parties in Ontario and prohibit the inclusion of a civic party's name on a municipal election ballot violates sections 2(b), 2(d) and 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Section 2(b) guarantees the rights of individuals to associate with one another in organizations that represent their collective views and interests.

Section 2(d) guarantees the rights of individuals to freely express their beliefs, including political beliefs. The inability to express political beliefs within civic parties restricts free political expression.

Section 3 provides individuals with a right to vote. The Supreme Court of Canada has determined that the right to vote includes the right of an

Approval Rating



Tory's Ratings High

In the first published poll following the municipal election, Forum Research shows that Mayor Tory's approval is nearly 75 percent.

This is more than 10 percentage points higher than his highest approval ratings during the municipal election campaign and 20 points higher than at the end of November following the election.

The Forum Research poll also shows that Mayor Tory is widely popular among all age groups and socio-economic groups.

The sample size was 1,001 residents. The margin of error is +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20.

About the Toronto Party



The Toronto Party was created in October 2006 and was later incorporated under Ontario's Corporations Act as a corporation without share capital or not-for-profit entity.

The primary mandate of the Toronto Party has been to achieve the formal recognition of municipal political parties in Ontario.

The Toronto Party believes that it is contrary to democracy to forbid Toronto residents from forming such entities and to prevent municipal parties from appearing on a municipal election ballot.

cont.

The Toronto Party congratulates John Tory in his election as Toronto's new Mayor.

We also congratulate former Mayor Rob Ford for his election as City Councillor. We also wish Rob well in his battle against cancer.

elector to be informed about a candidate's party affiliation on an election ballot. The right to vote is, in our view, a substantive right that has been codified in the Act.

It is thus contrary to the guaranteed rights and spirit of Canada's *Charter* to prohibit civic parties from appearing on a municipal election ballot.

Benefits of Municipal Parties

The average municipal elector may believe that municipal parties are "bad". However research into the impact of municipal parties suggests that they provide positive benefit to our municipal system of government. Some of these benefits are listed below.

- 1. Stronger economic growth as a result of electing like-minded politicians who support a particular mandate.**
- 2. Increased voter turnout.**
- 3. Provide a counterweight to incumbency and boost diversity in representation through recruitment of women and minority candidates.**

Municipal electoral reform

gridlock, there continues to be much need for municipal electoral reform.

In the 37 council races where an incumbent councillor sought re-election only one was defeated. Former Mayor Rob Ford easily regained a seat on city council by winning his former council seat.

This is a pattern that has repeated itself election after election.

The Toronto Party would like to see this pattern change and to end the "power of incumbency".

For 8 years we advocated for the recognition of municipal political parties on the ballot and we remain committed to fulfilling this mandate.

Provinces that recognize municipal parties



Only two of Canada's major provinces formally recognize municipal political parties or civic elector organizations. These two provinces are Quebec and British Columbia.



Both of these provinces have a rich tradition of municipal political parties. Municipal parties in these provinces have existed for decades.

In Ontario, civic parties are forbidden.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are certainly benefits of having independent council candidates that don't come with a particular ideological framework that binds them into certain decisions."

"But I do think that political parties, the benefit of them outweighs the cost of losing their independence in the sense that they can more effectively govern in non-election periods."

"And during election periods it's clear to voters what they did in office, because they come as a package. And whether we like what they did or not like what they did, we can respond accordingly and not have to sift through the voting records of eight or nine council candidates. Who's going to do that, right?"

Prof. Carey Doberstein (UBC), Nov. 13, 2014 in "Do political parties make sense in municipal politics?"



Membership in The Toronto Party is free.

Please sign up at:

www.thetorontoparty.com

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