

Please Deliver To: Town of Markham

Le conseil

**Minister of Municipal Affairs
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06-1347

February 22, 2006

Dear Head of Council:

I would like to inform you of some of our government's intentions related to extending the length of the term of office for municipal councillors and school trustees.

Yesterday, at the Ontario Good Roads Association-Rural Ontario Municipal Association's annual meeting, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced our government's plan to propose legislative changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996. If passed, these changes would extend the term of office for municipal councils and school boards to four years from three with a view to strengthening local government.

Over the last few years, we have listened to many municipal decision-makers who have advocated for a longer term of office for local government representatives in Ontario. If the proposed legislation passes, municipal leaders and school trustees will be elected for four-year terms.

A four-year term would provide municipal councils and school boards with more time to plan and implement their agendas, in a similar fashion to the federal and provincial governments.

If the legislation passes, Ontario would be in step with half of the provinces in Canada, including Quebec, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which currently have four-year terms.

As you know, the election cycle began January 1, 2006. If passed, the legislation would make the change effective for the 2006 municipal elections, and successful candidates in November's coming elections would begin their four-year terms on December 1, 2006.

Sincerely,


John Gerretsen
Minister

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TOWN OF MARKHAM
CLERKS DEPT.