



**EDUCATION & TRAINING SESSION
GENERAL COMMITTEE
MAY 7, 2012
12:30 PM
Canada Room**

Attendance

Mayor Frank Scarpitti	
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Jim Baird, Commissioner Development Services
Regional Councillor Gord Landon	Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community Services
Regional Councillor Joe Li	Catherine Conrad, Town Solicitor
Councillor Valerie Burke	Kimberley Kitteringham, Town Clerk
Councillor Howard Shore	Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Councillor Don Hamilton	Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer
Councillor Carolina Moretti	Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator
Councillor Alan Ho	
Councillor Logan Kanapathi	

Regrets

Councillor Colin Campbell
Councillor Alex Chiu

The Education & Training Session regarding the process for changing the head of a Regional Council to an elected position convened at 1:16 PM with Mayor Frank Scarpitti as Chair.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None disclosed.

1. ELECTION OF REGIONAL CHAIR IN YORK REGION

At the March 20, 2012 Council meeting, Council referred the motion entitled "Request to the Province to amend the Municipal Act to require direct Election of the Chair of Council" to this date.

Ms. Yvonne Hurst, Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the process required for changing the method of selecting the head of a Regional Council.

There was discussion regarding whether a triple majority is required to rescind a by-law changing the composition of Council that was endorsed by a triple majority. Staff pointed out that the Region of York Act was repealed on January 1, 2003.

It was noted that the Region of Durham began their process at the local level by placing the question on their local ballots during the 2010 Election.

The Committee briefly discussed the importance of obtaining support from the other local municipalities within the Region.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti advised the Committee that York Region is holding an Education & Training Session at the end of May 2012 and suggested this matter be raised for discussion at that time. It was suggested that the motion referred from the March 20, 2012 Council meeting be placed on the June 12, 2012 Council agenda for consideration.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the following motion be considered at the June 12, 2012 Council meeting:

Whereas prior to 1971 the Governance model for the Municipality of the County of York was a Council of elected Mayors and or Reeves and deputy Mayors or Reeves from the constituent Municipalities, and

Whereas the head of Council was a Warden along with a Deputy Warden appointed by council from the membership of the York County Council, and

Whereas in 1971 the Province of Ontario dissolved the former County of York and through the Region of York Act, created the Region of York, and

Whereas the Province also through boundary adjustment and amalgamation created the nine municipalities that together now make up the Region of York, and

Whereas the province of Ontario appointed the first Chairman of the Region of York, and

Whereas the responsibilities of the Region of York at that time were limited in scope to little more than that of the previous County Government, and

Whereas the Region of York act as all other Regions created at that time were to grow and provide additional services previously provided by the Provincial Government, and

Whereas the practice of an appointed Chairman has continued for over Fourty Years, even though the population of the Region has increased from less than 250,000 residents in 1971 to in excess of 1,050,000 residents in 2011, and

Whereas the population of the Region of York is in excess of the population of Newfoundland and Labrador, (510,000), Prince Edward Island (146,000), Nova Scotia (946,000), New Brunswick (756,000) and about even with Saskatchewan (1,057,900) and if going to overtake the population of the Province of Manitoba within the present planning horizon. These populations are from the 2011 Stats Canada Census, and

Whereas the Chairman of the region of York is one of the most powerful politicians in the Province, but is only accountable to a simple majority of the membership of the York Region Council, and

Whereas to be appointed Chairman of the Region of York Council requires 11 votes or approximately 0.0000109934 percent of the population or approximately 0.0000275 percent of the eligible voters in the Region, and

Whereas the Prime Minister, all Federal Ministers, Premiers and all Provincial Ministers must hold an elected position in a riding prior to being eligible to vote on any issues, and

Whereas the present process of Council appointing their own chair deprives the residents from hearing what the platform and agenda of the individuals running for the most senior position in the Region of York is to be, and

Whereas that agenda affects all of our lives whether it be Policing, Regional Planning, Roads, Public Housing, Public Transportation, Water and Sewer Services, Emergency Services and all other Regional Services provided, and

Whereas the role of Chairman has grown to the point that appointing from within the elected Council will not get the Regional Platform or agenda out to the residents as a whole,

Now therefore be it resolved:

- 1) That the Province of Ontario pass enabling legislation to require the head of the Regional Municipality of York to be elected by general vote in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, beginning in the 2014 Municipal Election; and,
- 2) That this motion be sent to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Kathleen Wynne Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Tim Hudak leader of the Opposition, Andrea Horwath Leader of the NDP, and all MPPs in York Region

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The Education & Training Session regarding the process for changing the head of a Regional Council adjourned at 2:11 PM.