

From: eileen liasi

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Subject: Election of Regional Chair

Please accept this, my written deputation for agenda item H.1 Election - Regional Chair, at the Council Meeting February 18, 2015 and distribute to all Council Members. Thank you.

1. I support this motion. Except for some regional councillors I don't know anyone who thinks that we the public at-large should not be able to vote for the Regional Chair.
2. The current system is an anachronism in this day and age. We are supposed to live in a democracy but not here in York Region. Our ancestors fought for universal suffrage in the early nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and here we are in the early twenty first century still struggling for the right to vote. Unbelievable. York Region you are two centuries behind the times.
3. 23 people deciding who fills the most powerful position in the Region is unfair to the electorate at-large, especially since there are vested interests among the few who can vote to retain the current system and block the will of the people.
4. Some regions have held referenda on the matter. Why not in York Region?
5. Some municipalities have passed similar motions already. The public at-large expects those Council vote results which represent their respective constituents to be represented at Regional Council, otherwise who are those regional councillors representing? Themselves?
6. Opening the election up to any and all candidates instead of a restricted field of 23 means we will stand a better chance of filling the position with the brightest and the best person for the job.
7. The Chair should be held accountable by the electorate every 4 years at election time. No one should get a free ride until they retire. That promotes mediocrity instead of excellence.
8. Election expenses should not be an excuse for retaining the current system. Democracy is not cheap and it's not perfect but it is the best system we have.
9. Months of lobbying, and backroom wheeling and dealing leading up to the appointment as happens in the current system is not an honourable way to choose the regional chair and it compares poorly with an open honest region-wide election.

10. A region-wide election will enable the electorate to become more familiar with regional issues, candidates and the future regional chair, all sadly lacking with the current system.

I urge all regional councillors to be progressive and support the motion before Bill 42 decides the issue for you.

Sincerely,

Eileen Liasi

Thornhill, Markham Resident.