

The **TORONTO PARTY**

LEADING THE WAY

TTP UPDATE APRIL 2009

This is the official newsletter of The Toronto Party.

2% SOLUTION PROPOSED!

A group of city councillors is calling for \$86 million in cutbacks to the city's operating budget. In their opinion, such a decrease will result in a property tax increase of only 2% instead of 4%. They are urging residents to contact the Mayor to support their initiative.

While The Toronto Party supports lower taxes, we also believe that more can be done to cutback on the spending at City Hall.

More needs to be done to trim the fat and waste out of City Hall, including a full freeze on all city hiring and salary increases.

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RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT GROUP HAS ROUGH START

*TALKING ABOUT RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IS ONE THING,
BEING RESPONSIBLE IS ANOTHER*

Recently, a group of Toronto Councillors announced that they were working together under the banner of the Responsible Government Group. While we laud them for their efforts to finally work together and are glad that they are following in our footsteps to formalize municipal political parties, there are lingering questions about the intent of this group of councillors.

Do they seriously want to work together with the residents of Toronto to bring responsible government back to City Hall or is it merely a group of councillors who know that in the 2010 election every councilor will be a target of the wrath of the voters?

This group of councillors, much like Mayor Miller and his cabal, deserves to be heavily scrutinized. Some of these councillors have made questionable decisions in the past and have also engaged in frivolous spending of taxpayer money. Also it is interesting to note that the following councillors are not part of this group: Ford, Holyday, Thompson, Walker, Del Grande and Minnan-Wong.

The people of this city have the I legitimate right to question the motives of this group considering that it is comprised of Councillors Brian Ashton and Peter Milczyn.

Councillor Ashton was a former member of Mayor Miller's Executive Committee. He supported successive budgets that have placed Toronto's economy in peril. While he finally decided to vote against Mayor Miller's motor vehicle registration and land transfer tax, people within his own Ward have started to seriously question his ability to represent them.

The Toronto Party is pleased that a number of its members who live in Councillor Ashton's Ward are willing to support a fresh face in 2010.

Meanwhile Councillor Milczyn supported the new \$60 motor vehicle registration tax. This is the same councilor who has angered Kingsway residents with his support of a condominium development on a piece of land near the Old Mill Inn. Despite opposition of the local residents, Councillor Milczyn ignored them in favour of the development.

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Councillor Karen Stintz is also part of this group of 10 councillors. The self-proclaimed conservative councillor who is trying to act in the best interests of the taxpayer hardly lived up to her conservative roots by spending nearly \$5,000 of taxpayers hard-earned money for speaking lessons. The expenditure is unjustified in many respects. First, Councillor Stintz took the lessons in the United States instead of spending money in the local economy. Second, the expenditure is really one of self-improvement rather than an expenditure to help the residents of Toronto.

She obviously disagrees with the criticism that has been leveled at her since she has tried to defend the expenditure on the grounds that it took place during a good economy. Since when does the state of the economy make a difference with respect to the frivolous spending habits of our politicians?

Councillor Stintz should display some grace and humility and pay for the speaking lessons out of her own pocket. Her failure to do so clearly demonstrates that if ever elected Mayor of Toronto she would not always have the best interests of the residents at heart.

Responsible government is more than just a label for a group of politicians. Responsible government is about adhering to a certain set of principles and values on a daily basis.

The revenue that government collects is the result of the hard work that people do in their daily jobs. When the people remit tax revenue to government, they expect that the revenue be used in a manner that benefits not only them, but those around them so that we can live in safe communities where everybody is given the opportunity to succeed. The taxpayer does not want their money going to government if it is used by their politicians for speech lessons or learning how to speak French in a city where the language of government is English.

The people want their roads fixed, they want their garbage picked up, they want top-notch police, fire and emergency services and they want to have their ice rinks and swimming pools open.

Until the Responsible Government Group properly prioritizes these issues, they will never become a true opposition to Mayor Miller. They will just be another group of politicians scrambling to save their own jobs come the next election.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER, BY STEPHEN THIELE

This month The Toronto Party has continued to add contacts to its growing email list. We are now being contacted by persons who are interested in running in the 2010 election and are at the stage of sending potential candidates into various Wards to promote the party brand and its ideas. We continue to have the most highly developed transportation plan for the city thanks to the tremendous work of our party's transportation committee, chaired by Mr. James Alcock.

We are looking to host a late spring fundraising event for the party and will be actively involved in the Ontario PC leadership campaign to promote the idea of legislative change so that there is formal recognition for municipal political parties in Ontario.