

THE TORONTO PARTY

A REFERENDUM ON TRANSPORTATION

For too long, the Toronto Party for a Better City has watched City Council from afar. While we remained engaged in a lawsuit that continues to seek the recovery of funds improperly given to Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti and former Councillor Adrian Heaps, we hoped that City Council would listen to the decision of electors who elected Mayor Ford with a mandate to end the war against car drivers and to stop the ill-advised "Transit City". We were wrong to stay disengaged from

this important issue.

When former Mayor David Miller announced "Transit City" *after* The Toronto Party had first announced its own 20-year vision for a modern, futuristic transportation plan that incorporated all modes of transportation, we demanded a debate on the issue of whether a series of above-ground transit lines was more beneficial than a system of rapid transit built underground and through existing utility corridors.

Aspects of our policy

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www.thetorontoparty.com

In this issue:

The Toronto Party calls for a referendum on the issue of public transportation: a new vision for Toronto v. above ground transportation.

Is it time for The Toronto Party to become a registered provincial political party.

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WHO SPEAKS FOR TORONTO AT QUEEN'S PARK?

When The Toronto Party was first created in October 2006, it asked the provincial government to change the law and to permit the formal recognition of political parties at the municipal level. More than 5 years later, nothing has happened. Neither the Liberal, Progressive Conservative nor the New Democratic parties have taken any steps to change the law.

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were ultimately incorporated into the platform of Mayoral candidate Rob Ford and eventually he was elected with a majority of the city-wide vote.

However, the transportation plan upon which he ran and which the voters of Toronto supported has been derailed by a group of Councillors who have effectively thumbed their noses at the voters and decided that they are "supreme".

These councillors are wrong.

The only people who are "supreme" are the electorate, and it is time that the electorate be given its opportunity to vote directly on the issue of whether they support a vision of above-ground transit lines, similar to the ones that created havoc

along St. Clair Avenue or whether they support a vision of underground transit which is less intrusive to communities and preserves road space.

In recent articles, media have called for a one-month debate among transportation experts so that City Council can make an informed decision. However this is an inadequate alternative to an issue that is fundamental to the building of our city.

Transportation is vital to all of us whether we are car drivers, public transit users, cyclists or pedestrians. We all have a stake as taxpayers with respect to how our hard-earned tax dollars are spent by government.

Yet in the vote which derailed Mayor Ford's plan for

underground transit, no one ever asked what the residents of Toronto wanted.

In our view, City Council has once again let down the people of Toronto.

Instead of rolling up their sleeves and working cooperatively to tackle problems facing the city or developing a vision for our future, our city politicians are more interested in playing political games or turning City Hall into a circus sideshow.

Only the people can end the silliness at City Hall and accordingly we ask that the people of our city be given the opportunity through a referendum to decide on our transportation future.

WHO SPEAKS FOR TORONTO AT QUEEN'S PARK? Con't

When Frank Klees ran for the leadership of the Ontario PC Party he agreed with the Toronto Party that municipal parties should be formally recognized. Yet he did not win the leadership of his party.

Liberal Donna Cansfield has been approached by representatives of the Toronto Party and has been asked to support change. Yet she too has done nothing to bring our issue to the floor of the Legislative Assembly.

The Toronto Party as a political entity is handcuffed by municipal legislation that does not permit it to raise money and to issue tax receipts for donations like a provincial or federal political party is allowed to do. The only way to gain this tax advantage is to register our party as a provincial party and then contest seats in the provincial election.

Becoming a provincial party is easy and with no one at Queen's Park speaking up for change in the governance structure of Toronto, it is time for the Toronto Party to seriously consider its provincial options.