

The **TORONTO PARTY**

LEADING THE WAY

TTP UPDATE JULY/AUGUST 2008

This is the official newsletter of The Toronto Party.

CONSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following are some highlights from the party's inaugural Constitution:

- Party Executive will be comprised of 13 elected positions.
- Candidates for Executive must be nominated 90 days prior to election meeting.
- First ever Ethics and Integrity position will ensure that party members elected to office will adhere to a Code of Ethics.
- Only persons who are members of the party 21 days prior to the election meeting will be eligible to vote.

Website:

www.thetorontoparty.com

E-mail:

thetorontoparty@yahoo.ca

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

The Toronto Party builds its foundation with first party Constitution and creation of election rules for party Executive.

When The Toronto Party was born over a year-and-a-half ago through the vision of two west-end residents, it was unknown whether other Toronto residents would become involved and help to build a solid foundation that would carry the party into the 2010 election.

But today, the party continues to grow thanks to the support of people from all parts of the city who have become members and who are lending their skills, expertise and knowledge of city politics to Toronto's first grassroots civic party.

Sue-Ann Levy of The Toronto Sun described the party as "A New Hope for Toronto", and Judi McLeod of the Toronto Free Press identified that our party would revolutionize City Hall. As we draw nearer to a municipal election in which the economic health of our city will be at stake thanks to the tax and spend policies of a Mayor and his hand-picked Executive that continue to drive high-paying jobs out of Toronto, The Toronto Party is ready to take the next step toward putting itself in a good position to elect candidates in the next election.

The colourized masthead above is new. But so too is the structure of the party.

This party has been operated by the volunteer efforts of a core group of people that has grown larger since inception. Combined, they have done an admirable job to build the party's brand. And they will continue to do so in the future.

But all political parties must be governed by a Constitution and must have rules to permit its members to become involved. To this end, the Steering Committee of the party has worked very hard over the last few months to draft a party Constitution and elections rules for positions on the Executive.

These constating documents will give party members ownership. And if we want to change our city it is time for all us to think like owners, not renters.

MORE MEMBERS NEEDED TO ASSIST IN NOMINATION PROCESS

There is leadership in all of us.

We have asked our members to take ownership of the party, and with the first election of a party Executive to take place this Fall, our party's Nominations Committee must be populated.

The Nominations Committee was created a year ago, but its members have been waiting for a Constitution to be put in place. With the Constitution now established, their work can begin.

This Nominations Committee will be taking a leadership role in gathering the names of party members seeking to run for the party Executive and ensuring that they meet the criteria established in the election rules.

In drafting the election rules and the Constitution, the Steering Committee was of the view that the Nominations Committee had to be free of potential conflict of interest and therefore a rule has been adopted that prohibits any person who will be seeking a position on the party Executive from sitting on this Committee.

If you are a member of The Toronto Party and are interested in helping us build the party's first Executive then we need you on the Nominations Committee.

To join it, please send us an email at:

nominations@thetorontoparty.com.

We look forward to your help.

PARTY SHATTERS MYTHS AGAINST CIVIC PARTIES

Last year, Councillor Karen Stintz became the first sitting Councillor to support the need for civic parties in Toronto. At a recent "Town Hall" meeting Councillor Peter Milczyn said that he would support the idea of civic parties if Mayor David Miller received his wish for more power from Premier Dalton McGuinty. And recently on the Dale GoldHawk show, even Mayor David Miller commented that he would support civic parties as long as they were independent of provincial or federal political parties.

The momentum for civic parties, like The Toronto Party, is building.

For too long, civic politicians from the Mayor to independent councillors have said that civic parties have no role in the affairs of the city; that unlike other politics, civic politics does not lend itself to partisan political parties.

But it is no secret that we already have *de facto* political parties at City Hall. The Mayor has surrounded himself with a left-leaning Executive who have shut out debate from those independent councillors who are supporters of either a more centrist or right-wing political philosophy.

Councillor Adam Giambrone, the former President of the NDP, is a key person in Mayor Miller's inner-circle. In the 2006 election, Mayor David Miller jointly campaigned with left-wing pal Gord Perks in Parkdale HighPark. They shared space on election signs.

The arguments against civic parties are a myth and only serve those who are currently in power. Social studies have examined municipal politics and challenged the myths. Issues at the civic level are no more or less partisan than issues at other levels of government, yet those levels are dominated by political parties. Moreover, it is clear that those in power want to hinder the formation of civic parties because in non-partisan civic elections, incumbents are returned to office 85% of the time. In contrast, where there are strong civic parties the turnover is much higher.

This is the kind of information that is withheld from the voting public when the issue of civic parties is discussed. We are changing that with a brochure, that will be coming out soon, which will outline and support the need for civic parties in Toronto.