

The **TORONTO PARTY**

LEADING THE WAY

**TTP Update
OCTOBER 2007**

This newsletter is the publication of
The Toronto Party – Toronto's first
non-partisan civic action party.

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**OCTOBER SYMPOSIUM
UPDATE**

Moderator
Mark McAllister, Global TV

Media Panel
Sue-Ann Levy, Toronto Sun
David Nickle, Toronto
Community News

**Business/Organization
Panel**
Kevin Gaudet, Canadian
Taxpayers Federation
Dave Meslin, Who Runs
This Town
TBA, Canadian Federation
of Independent Business

Political Panel
Councillor Karen Stintz
Borys Wrzesnewskyj, MP

**For more information about
our sponsored October 14,
2007 symposium, please
visit**
www.thetorontoparty.com

LABOUR COSTS OUT OF WHACK

For many months, Mayor Miller has tried to convince us that few savings can be found at City Hall and thus \$350 million in new taxes are necessary. We disagree.

Aside from cutting back councillor perks, salaries and office budgets, we believe that significant savings can be found in the amounts the city pays for labour.

Reports suggest that the city spends 50% of its operating budget on salaries and benefits. But some suggest that the real cost is about 70 to 80%. Based on the city's own documents, the wages paid to city employees seem high. A cleaner employed by the City earns \$20.91 per hour. A driver/loader solid waste earns \$23.38 per hour. Other hourly wage rates are higher. While it may be difficult for the city to rollback these hourly rates, it is reasonable to suggest that these rates are out of whack with wage rates paid in the private sector in Toronto and therefore must be controlled.

But hourly wage rates represent only one of the labour issues that impact the city's budget. Trade union monopolies are another.

Toronto is subject to various trade union monopolies. According to the agreements of these unions, the City pays a fixed hourly rate to the respective union workers, plus additional amounts that go into various union funds. Toronto does not independently audit how these funds are spent.

Recently, Hamilton faced the certification of a trade union. The city prepared a report which showed that the certification could cost Hamilton millions. When applied to Toronto, the figures suggest that the trade union monopolies cost our city \$100 million a year. Hamilton is proposing a simple amendment to the Ontario Labour Relations Act to solve the problem and to save the city money.

We agree with the position taken by Hamilton. It is another creative way to save Toronto money and to avoid Miller's significant tax grab.

The Toronto Party sponsors half-day symposium

On Sunday, October 14, 2007, The Toronto Party will be sponsoring a half-day municipal issues symposium at The Old Mill Inn, 21 Old Mill Road.

The symposium will run from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration for attendees will take place between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. However, we are strongly encouraging people to pre-register by sending us an e-mail at thetorontoparty@yahoo.ca.

There is no admission fee for this event.