

Monday, December 10, 2018

Dear Mayor Tory, Members of Striking Committee, and all of Toronto City Council,

As you know, last week City Council adopted a new committee system in light of the reduced 26 member council structure. Among other changes, this involved replacing City Council's former Standing Committees with four new interim Standing Committees:

1. Economic and Community Development Committee
2. General Government and Licensing Committee
3. Infrastructure and Environment Committee
4. Planning and Housing Committee

All of our organizations engage directly in the decision-making process through these committees, as they are essentially gatekeepers for the approval of major projects that affect Torontonians across our city. Whether it is through a public deputation or a written submission, Standing Committees are precisely the place where the public gets to have their say.

Regrettably, in previous City Council terms, some Standing Committees have shut out representation from entire pre-amalgamation cities. For example, throughout the second half of the last term there were no Toronto and East York Community Council councillors on The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

We believe that each Standing Committee should have at least one representative from each of Toronto's four Community Council Districts (Etobicoke, North York, Toronto & East York, and Scarborough.)

As members of the City Council's Striking Committee, you have an opportunity now to set a new precedent for equitable representation on Toronto's Standing Committees. This is more important than ever because of Premier Ford's cut to local representation in Toronto. Better representation creates a more deliberative and inclusive decision-making process since differences can be more democratically resolved at the committee level.

We want to see our city governed in a way that reflects our city. We implore you to ensure our city is governed inclusively, and that all boroughs have equitable representation in our civic decision-making process.

Sincerely,

ACORN Toronto
Bay Cloverhill Community Association
CityPlace Residents' Association
Cycle Toronto
Danforth Residents' Association
Fort York Neighbourhood Association
Garment District Neighbourhood Association
Harbord Village Residents' Association
Palmerston Area Residents' Association
Progress Toronto

Roncesvalles Macdonell Residents' Association
Scarborough Transit Action Network
Toronto Environmental Alliance
Toronto Youth Cabinet
TTC Riders
Walk Toronto
Wellington Place Neighbourhood Association
West Side Community Council
York Quay Neighbourhood Association