

Good afternoon,

A few weeks ago, I emailed you a 'save the date' invitation regarding this upcoming Etobicoke Public Forum. You may have seen the advertisement in Friday's guardian.

If you are not able to join me and my colleagues, please forward your thoughts and comments to councillor_milczyn@toronto.ca. I want to ensure all your questions about how this may change City Hall are answered, and hear what YOU think.

I will be summarizing all Ward 5 comments and providing them to the Mayor for his review.

ETOBICOKE PUBLIC FORUM

Topic:

‘SHOULD THE PREMIER GRANT INCREASED POWERS TO THE MAYOR OF TORONTO?’

When? Wednesday, June 18th, 2008 7 p.m.

**Where? Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall
(Council Chambers)**

A few weeks ago, I sent an e-update invitation, asking you to attend the first in a series of Public Forums (at the Scarborough Civic Centre on June 2, 2008) regarding the Mayor's request of the Province to increase his powers at City Hall.

BACKGROUND:

The Mayor is asking the Premier to grant added powers that would allow him to meet in private with his hand-picked Executive Committee, much as the Provincial cabinet does, and to grant him the power to hire and fire the City Manager.

A formal request for the new powers will be sent to the Premier by late summer or early fall. Discussions between the Mayor and the Province are being held behind closed doors, with both Council and the Public shut out of the process.

I believe that when such a fundamental change in our City's governance is proposed, all stakeholders should be consulted. I want to ensure you are heard and that all your questions are answered.

I also believe that if more powers are to be granted, it should begin with the next term of Council, and not be granted mid-term. This would allow those running for the position of Mayor the opportunity to communicate to Toronto what powers they want and why they want them.

I received hundreds of emails following the advertisement of the forum in Scarborough; with the vast majority of residents expressing their opposition to granting increased powers. It was also clear to me that Ward 5 residents want to see an Etobicoke Public Forum on this important issue.

Please join me and my colleagues (Councillor Thompson, Councillor Ashton, Councillor Del Grande, Councillor Nunziata, Councillor Palacio, Councillor Jenkins and Councillor Holyday) at this Etobicoke Forum on **June 18th @ 7 p.m.**

If you have any questions, please forward them to me. I will be sending out a reminder invitation next week, and will advertise the meeting in the Etobicoke Guardian.

I hope to see you there!