

October 27, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Committee

From: Mayor David Miller

Re: Removing the Restriction on Chairs of Community Councils
& Special Committees Serving Consecutive Half-Terms

Recommendations:

The Mayor recommends that:

1. City Council delete section 27-132(B) of the Council Procedures.

Background:

Section 27-132(B) of the Council Procedures says:

“Members must not Chair the same Special Committee or Community Council in consecutive half-terms of the same Council term, except for the Mayor or his or her designate.”

This restriction applies to the following decision bodies:

- Affordable Housing Committee
- Audit Committee
- Budget Committee
- Employee and Labour Relations Committee
- Etobicoke-York Community Council
- North York Community Council
- Scarborough Community Council
- Toronto and East York Community Council

The Chairs of the Budget and Employee and Labour Relations committees are elected by the Executive Committee. The others are elected by the Members of the committee themselves.

In my view this restriction is arbitrary and unnecessary. Chairs who enjoy the confidence of their committees should not be restricted from serving consecutive half-terms. The rule has the potential to deprive Council of the skills and experience of Members that the committee would prefer to remain in place.

These committees will be conducting elections for chairs after City Council considers the recommendations of the Striking Committee on mid-term committee appointments at its meeting of December 1, and 2, 2008. We should make this change now to permit those elections to take place without the limitation imposed by s. 27-132(B).

Mayor David Miller