

HOWARD MOSCOE



DATE: May 12, 2008

FROM: Howard Moscoe

TO: The Chair and Members of the Planning and Growth Committee

RE: Back to the Basics

Issue:

To ensure that areas that admit the public provide for basic necessities such as washroom facilities and water fountains.

Background:

- Restaurants and food service establishments and theatres are required by the Building Code to provide washrooms to which the public has access. Other facilities to which the public has access like supermarkets are not.
- Washrooms are a basic human need. Many retail stores provide these for the convenience of their customers but many do not because there is no requirement to do so. The Zellers department store at Lawrence and the Allen, for example, closed its public washrooms when it closed its restaurant forcing customers out into the mall in search of a washroom. It is time that the City of Toronto used its powers under the new City of Toronto Act to ensure that these basic facilities are provided as a condition of doing business within the City of Toronto.
- Toronto has an aging population and the need for public washrooms has increased. The Shoppers Drug Mart chain, for example, where a lot of seniors hang out, does not provide washrooms to which the public has access. Large pharmacies and supermarkets that are newly constructed should be required to provide customers with washroom facilities.



TORONTO Councillor Howard Moscoe, City of Toronto - Eglinton - Lawrence

Toronto Office:

100 Queen St. West, Suite B30, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2
Telephone: (416) 392-4027 Fax: (416) 392-4191
E-mail: councillor_moscoe@toronto.ca

Constituency Office:

Telephone: (416) 395-6410 Fax: (416) 392-4191

- Water fountain should also be mandated in large public places like shopping malls, exhibition halls and amusement parks. The Metro Convention Centre has a lot of drinking fountains throughout. On the other hand the City owned Trade Centre at the CNE, where they charge you as much as \$4 for a bottle of water has only one drinking fountain for the entire facility. It is a public disgrace. Water is a basic necessity and establishments that want to make money retailing bottled water should not be permitted to set the standards for providing the public with drinking water.

Recommendations:

1. This matter be referred to the Deputy City Manager for a report how we can mandate that washrooms to which the public has access be required in large retail stores, supermarkets and pharmacies on a go forward basis.
2. In preparing his report he consult with the Medical Officer of Health, Chief Building official, City Solicitor and Executive Director of ML&S.
3. The report further address a possible standard for providing public drinking fountains in exhibition halls, malls, trade centres and amusement parks and the mechanism available to require that they be provided.
4. The report be available to this committee no later than the October meeting.

Howard Mousse