

Adjustments to the 2010 Fall Schedule of Meetings due to Revised Municipal Election Dates

Date:	November 18, 2009
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Clerk
Wards:	All

SUMMARY

The Province of Ontario has introduced Bill 212, "An Act to promote good government by amending or repealing certain Acts and by enacting two new Acts". If enacted, this legislation will move Nomination Day and Municipal Election Day ahead by two weeks. For 2010, this means that Nomination Day would be September 10, 2010 and the Municipal Election would be held on October 25, 2010.

This report recommends adjustments to the fall portion of the 2010 meeting schedule for Council and its Committees so that the last regular legislative cycle before the Municipal Election ends prior to the new Nomination Day.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

If Bill 212 is enacted by the Ontario Legislature:

1. City Council approve the adjusted 2010 Fall portion of the Schedule of Meetings (August to December) as outlined in Attachment 1 to the report (November 18, 2009) from the City Clerk.
2. The City Clerk distribute the amended schedule to the City's agencies and special purpose bodies with a request that they:
 - a. avoid scheduling meetings, whenever possible, that conflict with the amended schedule; and

- b. avoid scheduling public meetings, forums, public consultations and large scale meetings on days of cultural or religious significance as noted in the amended schedule.

Implementation Points

The City Clerk will circulate the revised fall portion of the schedule as broadly as possible to ensure that Members of Council, staff and agencies are aware of the changes. The revised schedule will also be posted on the City's Web site.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact from this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

City Council on September 30 and October 1, 2009 adopted Striking Committee Item ST12.1, and in so doing, approved the 2010 Schedule of Meetings for City Council and Committees. The approved schedule reflects that City Council does not meet after Nomination Day and is based upon the existing Nomination and Municipal Election days – September 24 and November 8, 2010, respectively.

In late October 2009, the Province of Ontario introduced Bill 212, "An Act to promote good government by amending or repealing certain Acts and by enacting two new Acts". Among the amendments to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 is a change to the fixed day for elections. Voting day in regular elections will move to the fourth Monday in October (October 25, 2010). Nomination Day will move to the second Friday in September (September 10, 2010).

COMMENTS

As in past election years, Council is not currently scheduled to meet past Nomination Day in 2010. To accommodate a revised Nomination Day of September 10, 2010, and also respect the days of significance in early September, a three-week adjustment to the approved schedule of meetings is needed. The September 2010 meeting cycle must start in mid-August.

Generally, the first legislative cycle after a regular election starts in January of the following year. To address the potential impact of a longer time period between regular meetings it is proposed that the Executive Committee, Community Councils and City Council meet before January 2011. Meetings are scheduled for mid-December, after the First Meeting (the Inaugural). These meetings will ensure that the Community Councils have an opportunity to deal with both delegated and non-delegated business before the end of 2010. It will also enable the Executive Committee and City Council to conduct business before year end. The First Meeting agenda will also include urgent new business matters that cannot wait for the first regular meeting cycle of the new term.

In the event that the Province of Ontario does not enact changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and both Nomination Day and Municipal Election Day are unchanged, the fall portion of the schedule of meetings will remain as originally approved by City Council.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 – Adjusted 2010 Fall Meeting Schedule