



Application for Toronto and Region Conservation Authority board composition exemption

Date: December 15, 2020

To: City Council

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's authorization to request that the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks grant permission to the City of Toronto to maintain the current composition of its appointees to the Toronto and Region Conservation authority at 50 per cent Council Members, and 50 per cent public members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. City Council apply to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to allow the City of Toronto to maintain its current composition of appointees to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at 50 per cent Council Members, and 50 per cent public members.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its November 25 and 26, 2020 meeting, City Council, among other things, requested the Government of Ontario to reverse its decision to eliminate citizen experts from the board of Conservation Authorities:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.MM26.8>

City Council on December 17 and 18, 2019, appointed a public member to the TRCA board to fill a vacancy:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.CA11.2>

City Council on July 16, 17 and 18, 2019, appointed seven public members to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority board, for terms ending July 16, 2023:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.CA8.8>

COMMENTS

Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020 which received Royal Assent on December 8, 2020, amends the Conservation Authorities Act, which, among other things, now requires that at least 70 per cent of municipal appointees to a conservation authority be Members of Council.

An earlier version of the Bill, originally proposed eliminating public members. The bill was subsequently amended to require 70 percent of appointees be Council Members, subject to Ministerial exemption.

The relevant sections now reads as follows:

Members of council appointed

(1.1) When appointing members of an authority, the council of a participating municipality shall ensure that at least 70 per cent of its appointees are selected from among the members of the municipal council, subject to subsection (1.2).

Exception

(1.2) Upon application by a participating municipality, the Minister may grant permission to the municipality to select less than 70 per cent of its appointees to an authority from among the members of the municipal council, subject to such conditions or restrictions as the Minister considers appropriate.

The City of Toronto has 14 seats on the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), currently composed of 7 members of Council, and 7 members of the public. Council has appointed 7 members of the public to serve until July 2023, and is considering the appointment of Council Members to the TRCA at its December 2020 meeting.

City Council should apply to the Minister for permission to appoint less than 70 per cent its members from amongst Council Members in order to maintain the current ratio of appointees. This would be consistent with Council's decision at the start of the current term to better calibrate the number of bodies on which Members serve given the reduction in the size of Council.

The alternative approach would be to appoint 10 Members of Council to the authority and decide which 3 of the current 7 public appointees should be rescinded. In the most

recent appointment canvass, only 6 Members of Council have indicated interest in serving on the TRCA board.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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