Date: May 9, 2013
To: Government Management Committee Members
Re: GM 22.15, Proposed Electoral Reforms

The Graduate Students' Union at the University of Toronto (UTGSU) has over 14,000 members, studying in over 80 different departments, and living in all 44 wards across the City of Toronto.

The UTGSU would like to urge the Government Management Committee, and the Toronto City Council, to receive the report on Proposed Electoral Reforms and ultimately, to implement the use of ranked choice voting in the City's elections.

The highest governing body of the UTGSU, our General Council, comprised of 144 representatives, strongly believes that ranked choice voting provides for a fairer, more representational election system that encourages positive campaigning and eliminates the need for strategic voting. Ranked ballots also ensure a strong mandate for each elected Executive Officer, making the work they do on behalf of our large membership more representative and democratic. To this end, the UTGSU recently amended its own election policy in favour of ranked choice voting for our annual Executive Officer Elections.

We hope that City Council will agree that similar changes at the municipal level will provide constituents with fairer and more accurate representation, with councillors selected by true majority vote, rather than the current first-past-the-post process.

Thank you for your deliberation in this matter.

Respectfully,

Derek W. Larson
Derek Larson
Vice-Chair, Civic Engagement Committee

Brad Evoy
Brad Evoy
Internal Commissioner, Executive Committee

On behalf of the Graduate Students' Union, University of Toronto

To:
Councillor Paul Ainslie, Councillor Vincent Crisanti, Councillor Doug Ford, Councillor Mary Fragedakis, Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, Councillor Pam McConnell

Cc:
City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor Ford, Toronto Ranked Ballot Initiative of Toronto (RaBIT)