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Toronto City Council,

In 2010, 14 new councillors and a new Mayor were elected to Toronto City Council. This has invigorated the spirit and engagement of Torontonians in municipal politics; let's not lose this newfound energy! One way to continually refresh our civic debate is to impose term limits on elected officials ensuring new faces and new ideas are always being brought to the table. Toronto needs to begin discussing the value that term limits could bring to our democratic system.

I have enormous respect for my colleagues who have served their communities for long periods of time. Undoubtedly, there is a great deal of institutional knowledge in the minds of long serving councillors, knowledge that I have turned to at times myself. However, I believe that even with limited terms in office, there will always be experienced and knowledgeable members on Toronto City Council.

Term limits are not a new idea; they are nearly as old as democracy itself. Many cities in the North America impose term limits on the tenure of mayors and councillors. Toronto needs to understand the benefits that these city's have realized from this practice and explore what it might bring to our city.

As elected officials we encourage Torontonians to get involved in Municipal politics, term limits could give the youth of Toronto a better chance at becoming public representatives themselves. It is time that Toronto explores whether or not term limits will make Toronto City Council more reflective of the demographics, aspirations and culture of Toronto.

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