

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM32.1	ACTION			Ward:All
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"Open Ontario" Making Councillor Records Subject to Freedom of Information Requests - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Provincial government to require that the records of Councillors in the City of Toronto, as well as all elected representatives of all other Ontario municipalities, and all members of the provincial legislature be subject to Freedom of Information requests.
2. City Council direct the City Clerk to evaluate which communications and information are official City business that should be subject to Freedom of Information requests.
3. City Council direct the City Clerk to assist Councillors in immediately making their schedules publicly available on the City's website.

Summary

Unlike the Mayor, City Councillors cannot have their schedules, work emails or communications with lobbyists accessed through Freedom of Information requests. Establishing clear, open municipal governments should be a priority for both Toronto and across Ontario. Residents should have the right to know who their elected representatives are meeting with and how they are spending their days.

Good governance begins with opening the governing process to the public and maintaining accountability to the voters.

(Submitted to City Council on April 3 and 4, 2013 as MM32.1)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM32.1

