

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 2, 2004**

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

#### **Recommendation**

Councillor Carella recommends:

*WHEREAS it behooves the Council of the City of Vaughan to take cognizance of the fact that by the spring of 2004 the composition of all legislative bodies having jurisdiction over citizens of the City of Vaughan will have changed; and*

*WHEREAS it is appropriate to ensure that a dialogue is carried on between the City of Vaughan and these other levels of government over the length of their respective terms on topics of mutual concern; therefore*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Vaughan appoint no less than three and no more than five of its members to an ad hoc, non-statutory committee, to be known as the "Intergovernmental Relations Committee", said committee to be charged, inter alia, with the following tasks:*

- 1) to **monitor** issues of concern to federal and provincial legislatures*
- 2) to **identify** in respect of the above those issues of mutual concern to the City of Vaughan and the Province of Ontario, or the City of Vaughan and the Government of Canada, or the City of Vaughan and both the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada; and*
- 3) to **consider** opportunities for joint action on the part of the City of Vaughan and such other levels of government in respect of said issues; and*
- 4) to **recommend** to the Council of the City of Vaughan those opportunities identified by the members of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for further consideration by the Council of the City of Vaughan as the latter may deem appropriate*

*The proposed committee shall not concern itself with issues within the purview of any special-purpose committees previously designated by Council; nor with any matters falling within the ambit of the Council of the Regional Municipality of York.*

#### **Purpose**

To pursue any opportunities for improved cooperation between the City of Vaughan and the provincial and federal levels of government, for the general benefit of the citizens of the City of Vaughan.

Recent elections have produced changes in the composition of local council, regional council, and the provincial legislature. With changes also anticipated in the composition of Parliament following the expected April federal election, all legislative bodies having jurisdiction over the citizens of Vaughan will soon be at the start of new terms, with new personnel and renewed expectations for progress on any number of fronts. With that in mind, the above recommendation is respectfully submitted.

#### **Background**

The provincial election of October 2003 resulted in a change of government at Queen's Park. The municipal election of November 2003 resulted in changes to the composition of both the regional and local councils. The upcoming federal election will no doubt result in changes to the

composition of Parliament as well. It is generally acknowledged that legislative bodies are most open to change at the start of a term than at any other time over the course of that term. With that in mind, the creation of such a committee at this time will signal the desire on the part of Council to work closely with the provincial and federal governments for the general benefit of the citizens of Vaughan.

### **Relation to Vaughan Vision 2007**

Vaughan Vision 2007 identifies "Corporate Leadership" as a strategic priority of the corporation. The first goal listed under that heading is "To ensure effective political leadership". One avenue for achieving that goal is the re-establishment of the role of Council as "policy makers", which in turn reflects the guiding principle of the entire document----"Working Relationships". Specifically, Vaughan Vision 2007 states: "Accountable to the electorate, Council's role is to establish policy, Based upon this policy direction, Council empowers/authorizes Staff to deliver approved programs and services to the City of Vaughan." Policy, however, cannot be made in a vacuum, particularly since---according to the Constitution Act, 1867---municipal institutions are *intra vires* the provincial government. At the same time, pressure has been mounting on the federal government to create a "new deal" for municipalities that may alter the long-term relationship between the three levels of government.

The creation of a committee to identify opportunities for the city to develop new policies within this evolving framework is therefore congruent with Vaughan Vision 2007.

### **Conclusion**

The designation of a committee of councilors charged with monitoring, identifying, considering and recommending action on the part of the Committee of the Whole in respect of provincial and federal government issues should facilitate improvements in relations between the city, the province, and the federal government, for the benefit of the citizens of Vaughan.

### **Report prepared by:**

Councillor Carella