

Media Statement, October 12, 2006.

Today six candidates for Toronto City Council announced their intention of improving the way city government functions.

“We’re showing that while we might come from different political backgrounds, we’re intent on working constructively together,” says Garry Green of Ward 8 (Jane Finch).

“Our constituencies are very different – the inner suburbs, the outer suburbs, and the downtown – but we share a common desire to make councils more responsive to neighbourhoods,” says Ed Shiller of Ward 24 (Willowdale).

“We want the outer neighbourhoods of Toronto to feel as much a part of the city as the downtown”, says Amarjeet Chhabra of Ward 43 (Scarborough East.)

“We need to empower neighbourhoods,” says David White of Ward 14 (Parkdale/High Park), and this will help do it.”

“This is what we mean by leading change,” says Adam Vaughan of Ward 20, (Trinity-Spadina. “Our ideas are straightforward and based on giving communities a real say in decision-making.”

“I’m pleased to be working with such a committed and diverse group of concerned citizens,” says John Sewell, Ward 21 St. Paul’s.

The ideas presented include:

1. Hold City Council and Community Council meetings every second week rather than once a month. Meetings will be shorter, more focused, and business can be conducted in a timely fashion.
2. Give the four councils the power to make final decisions on all local matters including planning, roads, parks and recreation. This new responsibility should also include budgeting and staffing. This will ensure that the political structure can respond to local needs.
3. Appoint a task force to report within a year on improved governance structures for the city after appropriate public consultation.

The full report can be found on the web sites of the candidates: www.amarjeet.to;
www.greenforcouncil.ca ; www.johnsewell.ca ; www.electshiller.com ;
www.adamvaughan.ca ; www.davidwhite.to .

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