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Communication

CW(WS) - January 22, 2025

Item No. 1

From: <u>Clerks@vaughan.ca</u>
To: <u>John Britto</u>

Subject: FW: [External] Ward boundaries and Council Size

**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2025 8:33:39 AM

From: Cliff Nordal

Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 2:45 PM

To: Clerks@vaughan.ca

**Subject:** [External] Ward boundaries and Council Size

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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Ward boundary review consulting report.

Providing a single response is impacted by the lack of a decision from the province regarding our regional structure.

If Regional Councils are disbanded, then the number of ward councillors should be changed to 8 (preferred) or 9 (max), including the Mayor. A significant change to ward boundaries would be required. This would enable a more equitable distribution of population served but within existing budgets and office space availability. Vaughan Council should resist the notion of "finding a job" for displaced regional councillors. The focus should be on ward workload and effective representation for each councillor, as well as staffing committee, etc.. I would also hope that all existing support staff would be able to find jobs with new Councillors or within the City Corporation.

If Regional Councils are retained as is, and assuming that Regional Councillors have a reasonable workload compared to war councillors, then the existing boundaries should be modified to retain the same number of Ward Councillors. I am however uncertain if this workload assumption is accurate as my experience is that residents contact Ward Councillors about issues more frequently than Regional Councillors. The Consultants should be asked if they have a view on such workload balance issues. I recognize that Wards 1 and 4 are above the average and this will only get more lopsided as population within Vaughan increases within those two wards in particular.

If the province actually intends to make a decision about Regional Councils in 2025, then Vaughan Council should consider waiting for that to occur before going ahead with

changes.

Respectfully submitted, Cliff Nordal