

**Communication : C 57
Committee of the Whole (2)
June 8, 2021
Item # 21**

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Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 11:34 AM

To: Clerks@vaughan.ca

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Subject: [External] Ward Boundary Review

Vaughan Council,

I am resending my letter from Council's May 5th Special Committee of the Whole meeting. At this meeting members of Council's acknowledged issues with the scope and structure of the current ward boundary

study. It was incredibly disappointing that Council recognized issues, in particular that increasing Regional representations will occur at the expense of local representation, but did not take any course of action to rectify this issue that would enhance and ensure Vaughan residents have fair and effective representation to uphold the 'fundamental principles of democracy'.

To not do anything today would be seen as pushing this problem off yet again to the next term of Council and committing Vaughan residents to a system of representation that is not representative, fair or effective because representation is skewed too far towards broader city-wide interests and local interests which have been underrepresented for years will be further compounded.

Whatever action Vaughan Council chooses to take must clearly articulate and include all voting members; Regional and Local Councillors. Residents are asking for a clearer and more understandable delineation between Local and Regional Councillors to understand roles and responsibilities and create greater accountability for Regional Councillors.

While Vaughan may have added another Regional Councillor this representation is meaningless if the citizens they represent do not understand the role and responsibilities of Regional Councillors.

Since the May 5 meeting I have asked the Clerk repeatedly for the by-law or authority in which Council decided that Regional Councillors are elected at large. I have not received a response. I have also asked repeatedly why some Regional Councillors have adopted a title of Local and Regional Councillor. I have not received a response. We will have 5 members of Council elected at large this means that Vaughan residents will be asked to educate themselves and vote for 6 people for Vaughan Council it does not seem accountable or reasonable and a system that will perpetuate voting by name recognition. Whereas if Regional Councillors were voted in by ward this would prove to be a much more accountable system for voters, create greater accountability to and assist residents in having a better understanding of who represents them at the Region. This will also be a solution that does not require additional costs for salary or offices by adding another local councillor.

Right now if I have a Regional issue do I reach out to three Regional Councillors, do I expect responses from three Regional Councillors? How do I know which one to reach out to, which one will respond? Why do they call themselves local and regional councillors when we already have local councillors elected by ward?

As concluded by the consultant resident's are frustrated and Vaughan's representation is no longer working (refer to pg. 24):

“Throughout the public consultations for the WBR, the Consultant Team heard that there is a desire to add an additional local councillor and that considerable confusion over the roles and responsibilities of Local and Regional Councillors remains among some segments of the community. As the community grows, it is natural for Vaughan council to want to address these issues, potentially exploring adding an additional local councillor or clarifying either the scope of responsibilities of Local and Regional Councillors or their accountability relationship with the community. Selecting either of the final options contained in this report does not preclude council from making decisions in the future around the composition of council or the role of Local and Regional Councillors. Council has the ability to proactively address the growing disparity between wards now, while making decisions about the composition of

council in the future.”

My request to speak form is also attached.

Thank you,
Irene Ford