

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

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THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Story No. 1

Its Essential Features

This series is intended to give information. It is not a brief for or against the Council-Manager System of Municipal Government. It is published in response to repeated requests for definite information.

How a Council-Manager Municipality May be Recognized

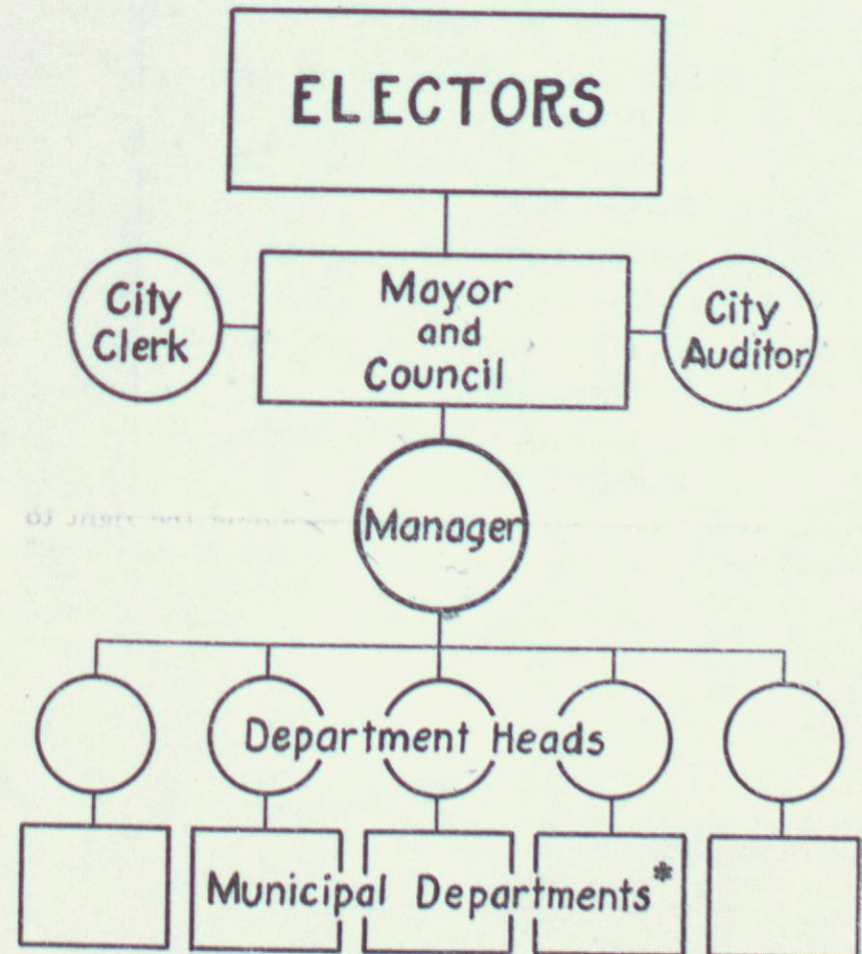
There is a tremendous amount of hazy thinking and misinformation about the Council-Manager form of Municipal Government. This is due partly to the unfortunate fact that the name first applied to it was Commission-Manager. This gives the idea to some people that the Commission System and the Council-Manager System are the same thing, whereas they are fundamentally different. To others it gave the idea that the system is autocratic: because so many Commissions appointed for other purposes have been given autocratic powers and because the word manager has been given a sinister meaning. In the system variously styled, the Council-Manager system the Commission-Manager system or the Manager system, the Council or Commission is simply a body elected by the citizens to formulate policies and see that these policies are carried out. It never should have been called anything but a Council. The size of a body or its mode of election should not determine its name. A Commission in a Commission-Manager City is only a Council and a Council in a Council-Manager City is simply an elected body of representatives commissioned by the citizens to act for them.

If a municipality has (1) a Council or legislative body which decides on policies, sees that they are carried out but does not, itself, directly administer the carrying of them out, and (2) a chief administrative official called a Manager, Administrator or some other descriptive name, charged with the duty of carrying out the policies formulated by the legislative body and clothed with the necessary executive powers for carrying out the policies, including the right to appoint (or nominate for appointment), promote and dismiss subordinates under a definite procedure laid down by Council, it is a Council-Manager City. If it has a Council which interferes in administrative details, or if it has a Manager which interferes in legislative details, or if the Manager is a Manager only because he has that name and draws the salary of that position, while at the same time having powers insufficient to make management possible, it is not a Council-Manager City. Names guarantee nothing. It is quite conceivable that many Mayor-Council Cities may be in reality nearer to the Council-Manager system than some cities which are officially styled Council-Manager Cities.

There is one other feature which may be regarded as universally desirable and more or less essential to proper control by Council under the Council-Manager system and that is that the City Clerk and City Auditor be independent of the Manager and responsible directly to the Council, the City Clerk because he records the decisions of the Council as to policy, and the City Auditor because he reports to the City Council on the financial results of the policies carried out by the City Manager.

The Schools are not included in the Community Services under the control of the Municipal Council.

The simple diagram below presents the main features of a Council-Manager Municipal Government. Details will be included in later Diagrams.



*There is no special virtue in the number five. There may be seven or nine.

Numbers in the Council-Manager Series

1. *Its essential features.*
2. *Some other important but not essential features.*
3. *Advantages claimed for the Council-Manager Plan.*
4. *Arguments advanced against the Council-Manager Plan.*
5. *The history and growth of the Council-Manager System.*
6. *Not every city is ready for the Council-Manager System.*