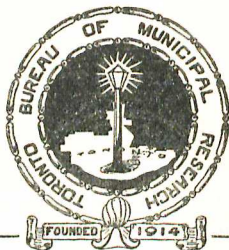


# Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

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

ISSUED BY THE

137 WELLINGTON ST. WEST



TELEPHONE ELGIN 1904

*White Paper No. 161*

*December 29th, 1930*

*One Sometimes Hears the Statement,—*

*“People Can't be Expected to Vote  
When There Is NO Issue”*

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*Is There Any Issue Before the Electors  
Which They May Decide  
January 1st, 1931?*

ISSUES, JANUARY 1st, 1931.

1. Unless there is a considerable reduction in services or costs, the City will spend in 1931, on current account—not including public service enterprises and special services, except for deficits—over \$34,000,000; or over \$54 for every man, woman and child; or over \$270 for every family of five in the City. Possibly, if certain proposed expenditures become actual, these amounts may be much larger. Will the 61\* people who are to be elected to supervise this expenditure be fitted by experience and character to formulate the policies according to which this huge sum is to be expended? Does this constitute an important issue? If not, what would do so?
2. The City faces a huge programme of major and normal capital expenditures. The introduction to the 1929 City Estimates placed the capital requirement during the next few years after that date, on account of major capital commitments, at over \$50,000,000 and, in addition, annual normal capital requirements at \$8,000,000 per annum, a capital programme which would “involve the marketing of bonds approximately \$100,000,000 in value”. The present capital commitments are given at \$47,245,482, of which \$14,299,538 were approved since the passing of the 1930 Estimates. Does the proper control of the huge expenditure, necessitating such bond issues which must finally be retired by the taxpayers and users of civic services, constitute an issue? If not, what does? Can such huge capital expenditures, which are to be spread over a term of years, be properly supervised by a body elected annually? Does this constitute an issue? If not, can it be made an issue?
3. Municipal taxation alone will probably amount to over, and possibly much over, \$31,000,000 (net) and will approach, if it does not exceed, \$50 per person. Is this impost necessary and does it constitute simply necessary repayment of necessary services produced at the necessary cost? Does it handicap Toronto as a commercial and industrial centre? Are these issues? Are they important? Do the candidates whom you have heard think them important?

\*Disregarding acclamations.

4. Getting full value for every dollar spent is impossible without adequate city planning. (Is that true?) City planning is impossible if “ward” thinking predominates. (Is that true?) How much longer will Toronto be obsessed by the “ward” psychosis, and how long will the public purse be able to stand the drain of supporting sectional and other special interests? Are these issues? Are they important? What candidates think so?
5. During 1931, 61 men and women are to administer for the citizens generally the following services, among others:
  - (a) Protection of the public health of 621,000 people;
  - (b) Protection of life and property of 621,000 people;
  - (c) The education of, say, 125,000 of the children and the youth of the City;
  - (d) The production of water for the domestic and industrial uses of 621,000 people;
  - (e) The acquisition and management of parks and recreation facilities for 621,000 people;
  - (f) The building of pavements and sidewalks;
  - (g) The collection, removal and disposal of refuse;
  - (h) The cleaning of the streets;
  - (i) The building and operation of sewers and sewage disposal works.

In addition, they will have definite relations—through appointment, auditing, reporting and consideration of capital expenditures, with Commissions which administer transportation, the distribution of light and power and harbour development and operation.

What do these services mean to you? Can any but capable, independent and honest men and women adequately represent the general interests in these services? Does the selection of such men and women constitute a major issue? If not, what would constitute a major issue?

The Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research is an independent, non-partisan citizen organization, for the promotion of informed citizenship and, through it, of efficient municipal government.

Its methods are :

1. The ascertaining of the facts regarding municipal government.
2. The study and analysis of these facts.
3. The publication of these facts in clear, concise form, with constructive suggestions based on the facts.