

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

"TO PROMOTE THE MOVEMENT TOWARD EFFICIENT CITIZENSHIP"

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**OPEN LETTER**

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TORONTO 2

Feb. 5th, 1936.

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of
 the Board of Control and City Council.

Lady and Gentlemen:

We note in the press that it is proposed to change the date of the fiscal year in Toronto from December 31st to December 15th. The Bureau does not believe that this change is necessary or desirable from the taxpayers' standpoint for the following, among other reasons:

1. It does not provide any real cut in expenditure and therefore no real relief to the taxpayer.
2. It would make impossible exact comparison with other cities in Ontario and with Toronto itself in past years.
3. It would require alteration in civic financial records and procedure at considerable expense and without any real countervailing benefit either to the efficiency of administration or to the taxpayer.
4. It would not really correspondingly advance the budget in comparison with the end of the civic year which would itself be two weeks in advance.
5. It would tend to deceive the taxpayers as to the real costs of a year's operation.
6. The calendar year is a natural fiscal year for a municipality.

The only advantage, more theoretical than real, of the change of date of the fiscal year is that, if the date of election is changed, it would shorten the possible time in which the old Council might have the decision of important policies previous to the coming into office of the new Council.

In the Bureau's opinion, this possibility would be better met by obtaining legislation providing that the new Council shall assume office, say, one week after the date of the election. This would also have the merit of really promoting the early consideration and passing of the Estimates since the new Council would be able to consider and act on the Estimates before the new fiscal year actually began. It is not at all necessary to have the fiscal year correspond exactly with the Council year as is shown by the experience of other municipalities.

Respectfully submitted

"T. G. Rogers"

President

"H. L. Brittain"

Managing Director