



BUREAU OF
MUNICIPAL
RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

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QUESTIONS FOR ELECTORS. 1964

In this newsletter, the Bureau of Municipal Research draws attention to important issues facing voters in the 1964 elections. The Bureau believes first, that candidates ought to have informed opinions on these subjects and ought to be able to express their views to the electorate, and second, that these issues and the candidates' responses to them ought to assist voters in choosing their representatives.

Planning

Should Metro have an Official Plan?

Are we giving enough attention to the effect of new developments on the street scene and the skyline? If not, would you favour giving, either Metro or the area municipalities, powers to implement satisfactory three-dimensional urban design?

Do you see the re-zoning of small pockets of land of an otherwise uniformly settled area (i.e. spot-zoning) as being desirable or compatible with long-term planning?

Redevelopment

If we are to have large-scale redevelopment in future should municipalities facilitate this by using more readily their powers of land assembly and then:

- 1.) sell the land to developers?
- 2.) lease the land to developers?
- 3.) develop the land themselves?

Is 'mixed land-use' to be encouraged downtown? If so, how?

Do you see the development of downtown apartments as an economic or socially desirable, proposition?

Transportation

Should the building of our suburbs be geared to the provision

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of a public transit system that can be operated both as a service and as an economic proposition? If so, how is this to be achieved?

Housing

Do you see the Ontario Housing Corporation as being able to facilitate the building of more public housing, with greater speed, than has been achieved to date by the concerted action of the four levels of government?

Finance

Should more of our 'capital works' be financed from 'current taxation'?

Is the financial programming and listing of priorities of capital works adequately co-ordinated with local municipal and Metro planning?

Is the proposed two-year capital budget for Metro an adequate proposition for long-term planning or should the budget be for a longer period of time with a corresponding extension of the term of office for councillors?

To what extent should major decisions on capital budget expenditure be made by a separate public vote?

Assessment

Should assessed valuations of real property be 100% of market values for purposes of taxation? What problems would this raise?

Is it possible to adjust assessment on improved properties in such a way as to encourage improvement?

Do you favour the removal of the partially graded exemptions that exist for some City residential property?

Parks

Are Metro and the area municipalities spending too much or not enough on municipal parks?

The Arts

Is an arts centre more properly a City or Metro project? Should it be downtown? How crucial is location and inclusion of mixed uses to its success?

Education

Should school boards be responsible for raising the money they

spend or should municipalities have greater control over school budgets?

Do you favour a strict control over teacher salaries throughout Metro?

Do you favour standardization of school-unit design in order to cut construction costs of schools?

The Bureau has refrained from tabling questions relating to organization of Metropolitan government in view of the fact that The Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto will be publishing its report early in 1965.