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# BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

ESTABLISHED 1914



137 WELLINGTON ST. WEST  
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## A CO-OPERATIVE MEANS OF SELF HELP FOR CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

Pertinent facts are the basis of all intelligent action. This is as true of municipal affairs as of all others.

The members of the City Council need facts.  
The heads of departments need facts.  
The citizens and taxpayers need facts.

The members of City Council can obtain the facts necessary to build policy on.

The heads of departments have essential facts readily available.

**But the citizens and taxpayers as individuals cannot obtain the facts necessary for their action without an expenditure of time and energy quite out of the question.**

The Bureau of Municipal Research is the staff agency of citizens and taxpayers for the supplying of pertinent facts from an independent non-partisan standpoint.

The next two pages illustrate how these facts are made available to the members of public bodies, and their officials, as well as to all supporters of the Bureau. The third page illustrates how, through the co-operation of the press, these facts are taken into the 150,000 homes of Toronto.

BUREAU ACTIVITIES  
AS REFLECTED IN  
HEADLINES OF TYPICAL WHITE PAPERS

**BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH**

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

137 WELLINGTON ST. W. TORONTO, CANADA  
TELEPHONE EL. 1904

White Paper No. 229 January 19, 1935

**In 1938**

The City of Toronto is faced with some problems of long standing the solution of which cannot be much longer postponed. Among these are:

- I. Sewage Disposal
- II. Another Traffic Artery to the North
- III. Zoning, Town Planning and Housing

White Paper No. 209 November 4, 1935

**THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF TORONTO**

Is a huge enterprise with about 280,000 voting (?) stockholders, over \$350,000,000 invested capital, over \$60,000,000 annual current revenues and expenditures, about 15,000 employees, annual payrolls amounting to about \$26,000,000, and annual purchases of supplies, equipment and material, repairs and contractual services, of about, say, \$11,000,000.

White Paper No. 242 September 20th, 1939

**The Trend of Development in Police Administration**

INCREASED DEMANDS ON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The cost of any department depends on the number and amount of the services required of it and of the unit costs of producing those services. If unit costs remain constant and required functions do not change, the total appropriation should not increase. If, however, more services are required, unless these are offset by decreases in cost and improved administrative efficiency, either the appropriations must increase or in the long run existing services must suffer as to quantity, quality or both. For a time, added burdens may at least apparently be carried by increased activity on the part of personnel; but in the long run increased services mean increased costs.

White Paper No. 221 March 1, 1937

**THE RELATION OF THE PROVINCE TO THE MUNICIPALITY**

White Paper No. 243 October 6th, 1939

**The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Finance of Toronto For 1938**

White Paper No. 245 December 8th, 1939

**IN PEACE**

it makes a real difference whether or not there is economy and efficiency in municipal government.

**IN WAR**

waste and inefficiency in municipal administration are detrimental to the national cause because they divert resources from national defence. Any one who condones and does not combat waste and inefficiency in effect gives aid and comfort to the enemy.

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137 WELLINGTON ST. W. TORONTO, CANADA  
TELEPHONE EL. 1904

White Paper No. 219 November 15th, 1936

**THE TAX BURDEN ON REAL PROPERTY**

White Paper No. 239 March 30th, 1939

**1939 CITY BUDGET STORY No. 1**

ESTIMATED CURRENT REVENUE FOR 1939.

Taxes (Net)	\$32,253,509
General Revenue	1,821,000
Provincial Grant	895,512
Education Subventions, etc.	\$ 2547
Surplus from Special Services—Abattoir	135,193
Waterworks	137,740
Surplus brought forward from 1938	418,147
Total Estimated Current Revenue (from which Current Appropriations might be made in 1939)	\$36,525,617

White Paper No. 238 February 21st, 1939

**Reporting Direct Unemployment Relief Expenditures**

Personal deficits are unpleasant, but must be faced. If they are not, bankruptcy quickly follows.

White Paper No. 236 December 20th, 1938

**A HOME OWNING CITIZENSHIP**

The trend in housing away from the single family dwelling is due to many causes. Among these are—

1. The decrease in the size of the average family.
2. The increase in the proportion of older people in the population.

White Paper No. 235 December 20th, 1939

**Re "Questions," City Elections, January 1st, 1940**

Between 1932 and 1938 the total net debt of Toronto decreased from \$172,000,000 to \$129,560,246, or \$42,399,816. Other important decreases have been made this year. This should not be regarded as an invitation to retrace our steps and to build up our debt again to "magnificent" proportions. After the not too happy period of the last ten years, is it an entirely foolish idea that the

White Paper No. 224 November 9th, 1939

**On the First Day of January, 1940**

the electors of the City of Toronto are to elect 50 men and women to supervise the expenditure out of taxation and general fund of about \$36½ millions and the services that this sum buys.

In addition there is the expenditure of the Water Works Department of over \$3 millions and the authorizations of expenditure out of debt-fund funds, affecting general taxation which has varied in the period 1934 to 1939 from about \$1½ millions to over \$2½ millions or an average of about \$6 millions annually.

BUREAU ACTIVITIES  
AS REFLECTED IN THE PRESS

**Bureau of Municipal Research Chief Suggests One-third Go to Polls Each Year**

**Three-Year Council Terms Advocates Survey Of City Personnel**

Municipal Bureau Says Toronto Budget Down \$520,583

The Bureau of Municipal Research in its bulletin on Toronto's budget for 1939 states that planned outlay for 1939 is more than the 1938 outlay of \$39,250,000. The outlay for 1938 was \$38,730,000. The outlay for 1939 is \$39,750,000. The outlay for 1939 is more than the 1938 outlay of \$38,730,000. The outlay for 1939 is \$39,750,000.

**BUREAU OF RESEARCH BACKS SEWAGE PLAN**

"Should Have Right-of-Way Over All Capital Expenditures"

STAR 27 DEC 39

Close study of the proposed capital expenditures to be made by the municipal electors voted on in the referendum on the proposed sewerage plan is urged by the Bureau of Municipal Research in its latest bulletin. The plan is to build a sewerage system for the city of Toronto. The plan is to build a sewerage system for the city of Toronto.

**WANTS CITY RELIEF SHARE COST**

Municipal Research Bureau Suggests Four Methods of Accomplishing Task

TEL 25 JAN 39

**NEW SINKING FUND POLICY IS DECLARED**

Disipation of Bureau Charged by Higher Municipal Costs

TEL 17 FEB 38

**CLAIMS CITY DEPARTMENTS SHOULD BE CO-ORDINATED**

Research Bureau Also Advocates Staggered Terms For Council Members

TEL 17 FEB 38

**9 DEPARTMENTS INSTEAD OF 16 ARE SUGGESTED**

Bureau of Municipal Research Proposal Would Give Toronto Advantages

**RELIEF AS CURRENT OUTLAY IS FORESEEN**

Return to Policy in Effect 1932 Expected—Growth of City Costs Shown

TEL 23 FEB 39

**FOUR WARDS ARE PROPOSED FOR TORONTO**

Return to Policy in Effect 1932 Expected—Growth of City Costs Shown

TEL 23 FEB 39

**CITY'S BUSINESS UP TO CITIZENS**

Too Many Spenders and Not Enough Savers Cause of Today's Condition, Asserts Head of Research Bureau

TEL 15 FEB 39

**ASKS ROAD PLAN BE HELD OVER TILL WAR ENDS**

Not in National Interest, Bureau of Municipal Research Tells Council

**SCORES SECTIONALISM**

Too Many Spenders and Not Enough Savers Cause of Today's Condition, Asserts Head of Research Bureau

TEL 15 FEB 39

**BACKS SEWAGE PLAN**

G M 5 DEC 39

The Bureau of Municipal Research will suggest to City Council tomorrow that Toronto electors be asked to understand on Jan. 1 that, should they vote in favor of a \$60,000,000 traffic artery scheme, construction of the proposed arteries would not be commenced until the end of the war.

## BUREAU AIMS AND METHODS

The aim of the Bureau is to further efficient and economic civic administration through informed citizenship.

Its methods are:

- a. To ascertain the facts.
- b. To analyze the facts.
- c. To publish the facts in clear, concise language, with constructive suggestions.

All its publications are sent, among others, to:

- a. Subscribers.
- b. Members of City Council, Board of Education and Separate School Board.
- c. The Press.

An effort is made to issue timely material of news value, so that the material issued by the Bureau, or the most essential parts of it, may go into all the homes of Toronto. The Press of Toronto have co-operated by making use of the material in editorials and news notes. On page 3 within a small sample is given of references in the press.

If you wish to join the 350 citizens of Toronto who pool their appropriations for municipal research and receive regularly the White Papers, Bulletins and Open Letters of the Bureau, you may do so by becoming—

- a. A bulletin member at \$10.00 per year.
- b. A general member at \$25.00 per year.
- c. A guarantor or sustaining member at \$100.00 a year.