

Sc 3 E8
Box 3
File 1


BMR ^{In} Review

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Lynch has been appointed Executive Director of the Bureau. The appointment brought to a close the extensive work of the Search Committee whose task had been to review 85 applications and to conduct intensive interviews.

Ms. Lynch brings to the Bureau fresh thinking and new direction. First evidence is the publication of the Newsletter "BMR in Review". In addition to serving an information function, it is intended as a link between the Bureau, its membership, public officials and the general public. A strong effort will be made to encourage feedback in order to integrate the work of the Bureau more effectively into the community. The recent "Questions for Electors" reflects this new direction of encouraging lively dialogue.

Ms. Lynch holds a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois. Her background includes work in Canada with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and free lance planning assignments; and in the U.S. with the Illinois Office of Housing and Buildings and the New York State Assembly. She has been the Bureau's Senior Research Associate for the past two years.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

G. L. (Jed) Purcell has agreed to be Campaign Chairman for the Bureau's fund raising campaign. Mr. Purcell is Senior Vice President, Central Ontario Division with the Bank of Montreal. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$50,000 in new annual memberships. As local government expenditures reach more than \$4 billion a year in Ontario and the problems at the local level become more complex, the Bureau's activities must expand to continue its work as a leading

QUESTIONS FOR ELECTORS — 1980

This latest CIVIC AFFAIRS (October 1980, 24 pages) by the Bureau has had a positive effect on the last municipal election by stimulating discussion of issues and serving as a resource tool for electors, the media and candidates.

The response to the report was extremely positive. More than 500 individuals and organizations in Metro and 100 in London requested copies of the report. It appeared as the basis for numerous candidates' meetings. Candidates themselves used it when addressing issues. Besides a number of newspaper articles and radio coverage, the report was an integral part of an election series in a major Toronto newspaper. It served as the basis of a half hour cable television program.

The emphasis was on specific issues which have either emerged over the last several years or will be important in the future. Background on these issues was provided for Metro Toronto, each of the 6 area municipalities and London. Various sides of an issue were presented in a factual manner and candidates as well as electors were encouraged to look at these issues and debate them.

advocate of municipal reform.

Besides his 28 years experience with the Bank, Mr. Purcell has undertaken such activities as Chairman of the United Way Campaign in 1977-1978. A strong supporter of the Bureau's work, he believes the Bureau has a direct impact on the moulding of public policy at both the local and provincial levels. With the help of new members, this impact can increase.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 1980

Voters in Ontario elected new municipal representatives on November 10, 1980. This year the electors went to the polls in fewer numbers, had fewer choices to make due to the high number of acclamations and voted for candidates without regard to a consistency of political and philosophical beliefs. This sums up what some people have described as one of the most boring elections in years. It is interesting to look at some of the trends and inconsistencies which emerged in this election.

Voter Turnout

Voter turnout is notoriously low for municipal elections. While Provincial and Federal elections can produce at least 60-70% of the voters, municipal elections across the Province in 1978 attracted only 40% of the voters. The 1980 turnout appears to be even lower, in the range of 34-37%.

Why do the majority of voters not feel compelled to vote municipally? The Bureau investigated this in a survey in 1976. Three reasons for the apathy were discovered. People felt that there were few issues at the local level and that the basic services would be provided regardless of who was in power. Others felt that municipalities had little control over municipal affairs and that, in fact, the Province and to a lesser extent the federal government, make the decisions. The last reason cited related to a basic understanding of local government and its functions. People did not understand who makes what decisions and what was within a municipal jurisdiction. This was particularly true where there were two tiers of government. Other studies which have been done relating to low turnout have mentioned confusion for the average voter due to lack of party politics and the high number of positions to fill.

The following table provides a sampling of the voter turnout for 30 municipalities across the Province in 1978 and 1980. The sample is not meant to be statistically valid for the over 800 municipalities. It is, however, fairly representative of the Province in

terms of geographical distribution as well as size of municipalities, and can provide some information about turnout.

The median turnout for the 30 municipalities for 1978 was 40.15% and for 1980, 37.15%. This corresponds with the predicted drop in turnout for 1980. The 1980 election saw a high number of acclamations across the Province. In 30 municipalities in Eastern Ontario, entire councils were acclaimed. For some of these members it was their first election. There were also a number of mayors acclaimed who were not incumbents and several who had little municipal experience. Although it is typical to have some school board members acclaimed, acclamations at the mayoral level usually mean a decrease in turnout.

As can be seen in the table, turnout for areas where there were mayoral acclamations was much lower than average at only 29%. This supports the idea that many people see the mayoral race as the most critical since that person provides leadership and guidance to the whole council for the next two years. The mayoral race is usually the focus of media attention and helps to concentrate the issues which in turn draws the attention of the citizenry.

A surprising number of incumbent mayors were defeated this year also. The second section of the table indicates 6 municipalities where this occurred in 1980. The median turnout for this group was 43.15%, higher than the overall figure by 6%. High voter turnout is many times associated with negative voting - voting against an incumbent or against a certain stand on issues. Lower turnouts are usually favourable to incumbents' success.

The last section of the table represents municipalities where the mayor was neither acclaimed nor defeated. The median turnout here is comparable at 36.4% to the overall turnout for 1980.

Thus the general perception that the 1980 municipal elections were uneventful is confirmed by the lower turnout and the high number of acclamations. The mayoral

race remains the key to breaking this pattern, however.

Role of Party Politics

Party politics entered the 1980 election campaigns on both a formal and informal basis. The Provincial NDP formally endorsed and supported candidates in this election. In Metro Toronto, they supported a total of 33 individuals. There were also a number of informal parties or cliques of candidates who ran in areas such as Vaughan and Owen Sound. These informal parties developed as a result of particular stands candidates were taking - i.e. pro versus anti development.

Although structurally the formal and informal parties have few similarities, in terms of results they are very similar. Neither group in the last election could sway a large portion of the voters into casting their ballots along party or philosophical lines.

Of the 33 candidates supported, 19 were elected. This represents an increase of 5 more in terms of absolute numbers for

NDP - leaning municipal politicians.

The interesting aspects of the voter patterns, however, are not in the number of seats won but in the consistency of vote. In Ward 9 in Toronto, 4 N.D.P. candidates were running. Two for the two aldermanic seats and two for the two school board seats. Two of the candidates - one alderman and one trustee - were incumbents. A third of the candidates had previously been aldermen. This ward has an NDP representative at both the federal and provincial level. The elections results, however, saw the 2 NDP aldermanic candidates elected but both NDP school trustee candidates were defeated. The voters did not vote a straight party ticket.

Also revealing is an analysis completed by CBC Radio of the vote in Ward 6 of Toronto. Based on a ballot by ballot count by polling station scrutineers, voters did not vote consistently for NDP leaning candidates. There was an official NDP candidate who was running for alderman. This incumbent alderman was also endorsed by Mayor Sewell who although not an official NDP, is seen to

VOTER TURNOUT — 1978 and 1980

	1978	1980	Other Municipalities	
<u>Mayors Acclaimed 1980</u>				
Brampton	30.0%	17.0%*	Barrie	46.4%
Mississauga	32.8%	21.8%*	Burlington	45.7%
Orillia	46.2%	32.6%*	Chatham	40.9%
Owen Sound	42.5%*	50.5%*	East York	35.0%*
Waterloo	24.2%*	25.4%*	Etobicoke	35.0%
Woodstock	46.5%	38.4%*	Gloucester	29.1%
Median	37.65%	29.0%	Kingston	36.2%
			London	41.1%
			Nepean	38.0%
			North York	30.8%
			Ottawa	41.6%
			St. Catharines	34.5%
			Sarnia	37.8%
			Scarborough	32.2%
			Sudbury	46.0%
			Vaughan	51.0%
			Windsor	37.7%*
			York	41.9%
Median	43.35%	43.15%	Median	37.9%
			Overall Median	40.15%
				37.15%

* Mayors Acclaimed

have a reform leaning. From a party point of view a voter who supported the NDP candidate should also vote for a similiar mayoral candidate. According to the CBC survey, however, 25% of the people who voted for the NDP alderman did not vote for Mayor Sewell. The survey concludes that in this ward and several others, the NDP as a party could not deliver votes to all those it endorsed.

In terms of informal parties, the results look much the same. The Town of Vaughan had candidates who were in strong cliques of pro and anti development. The present growth rate of Vaughan makes this issue central to many decisions for future development. The campaigning was intensive. The results in terms of voter turnout was 48.1% - much higher than average. When the votes were counted, however, of the 4 seats being strongly contested, two went to the pro development advocates and two to the anti development side. Showing again that the consistency of vote was not there.

Parties both formal and informal will continue to operate to varying degrees at

the municipal level. The success of a partisan system will be seen in the results it can produce and its durability in a somewhat hostile environment. In the meantime, if parties are to succeed party strategists should be considering how they can break the present voting habits and convince electors at the local level to support a slate of candidates.

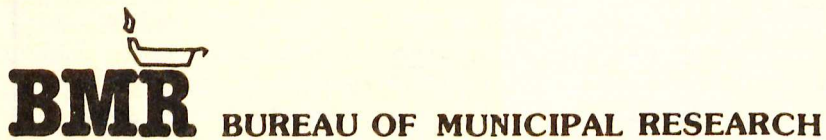
BMR IN REVIEW

BMR in Review is published on a periodic basis. It serves as both a newsletter on Bureau activities as well as a vehicle to provide information on various issues.

If there is an area that you feel should be covered in future editions please contact the Bureau office. Any comments are welcomed.

Mary Lynch, Executive Director

Bureau of Municipal Research
73 Richmond Street West, Suite 404
Toronto, Ontario
(416) 363-9265



Better Government Through Research 73 Richmond St. W., Suite 404, Toronto, Canada M5H 2A1

Printed Matter

Mr. R. S. James, Archivist,
City of Toronto Archives,
City Hall,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5H 2N2