

Reimagining Toronto's Community Councils

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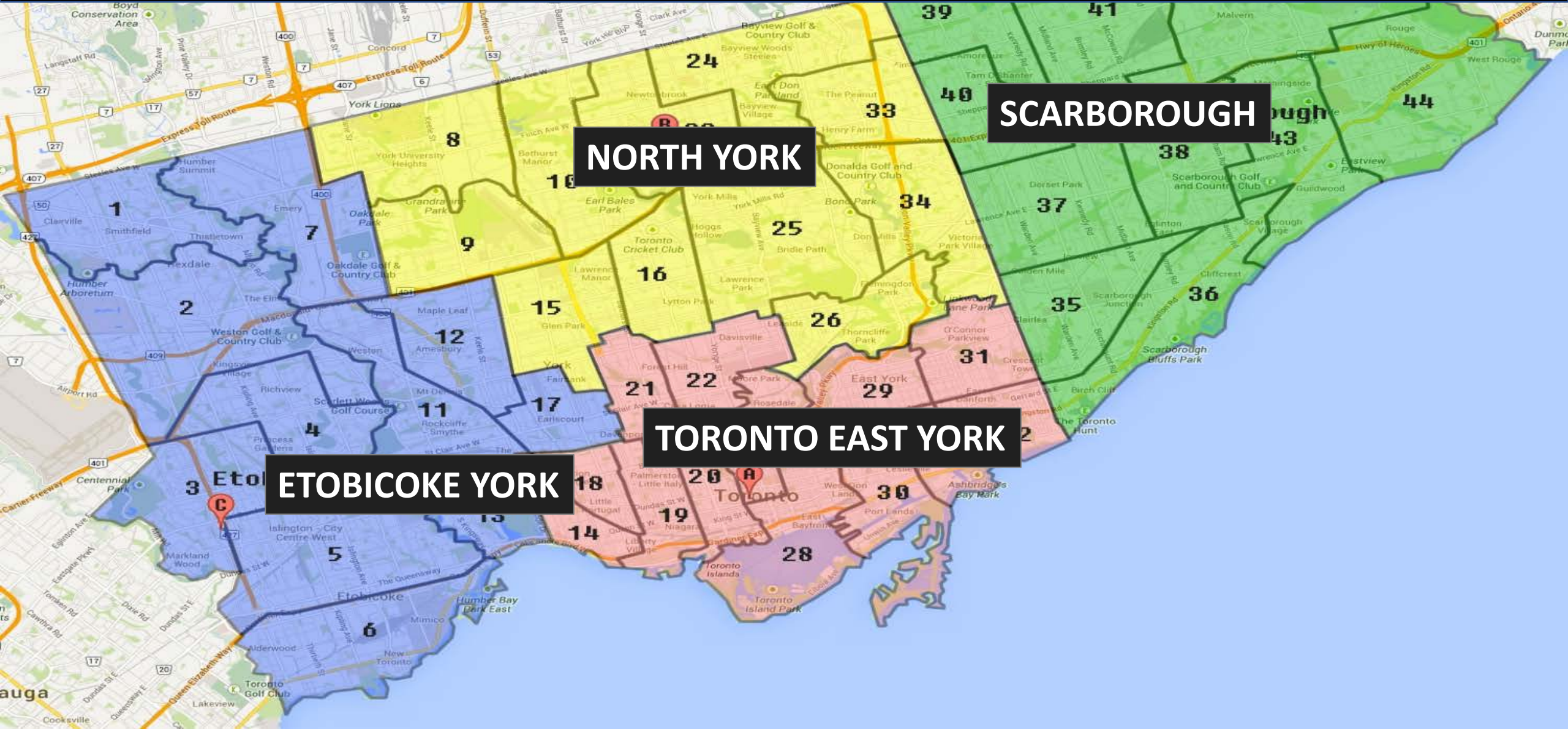
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Today's talk

1. What are the history of Toronto's community councils?
2. What do they actually do?
3. What role could they serve?

1. What is the history of
Toronto's community
councils?

Toronto Community Councils



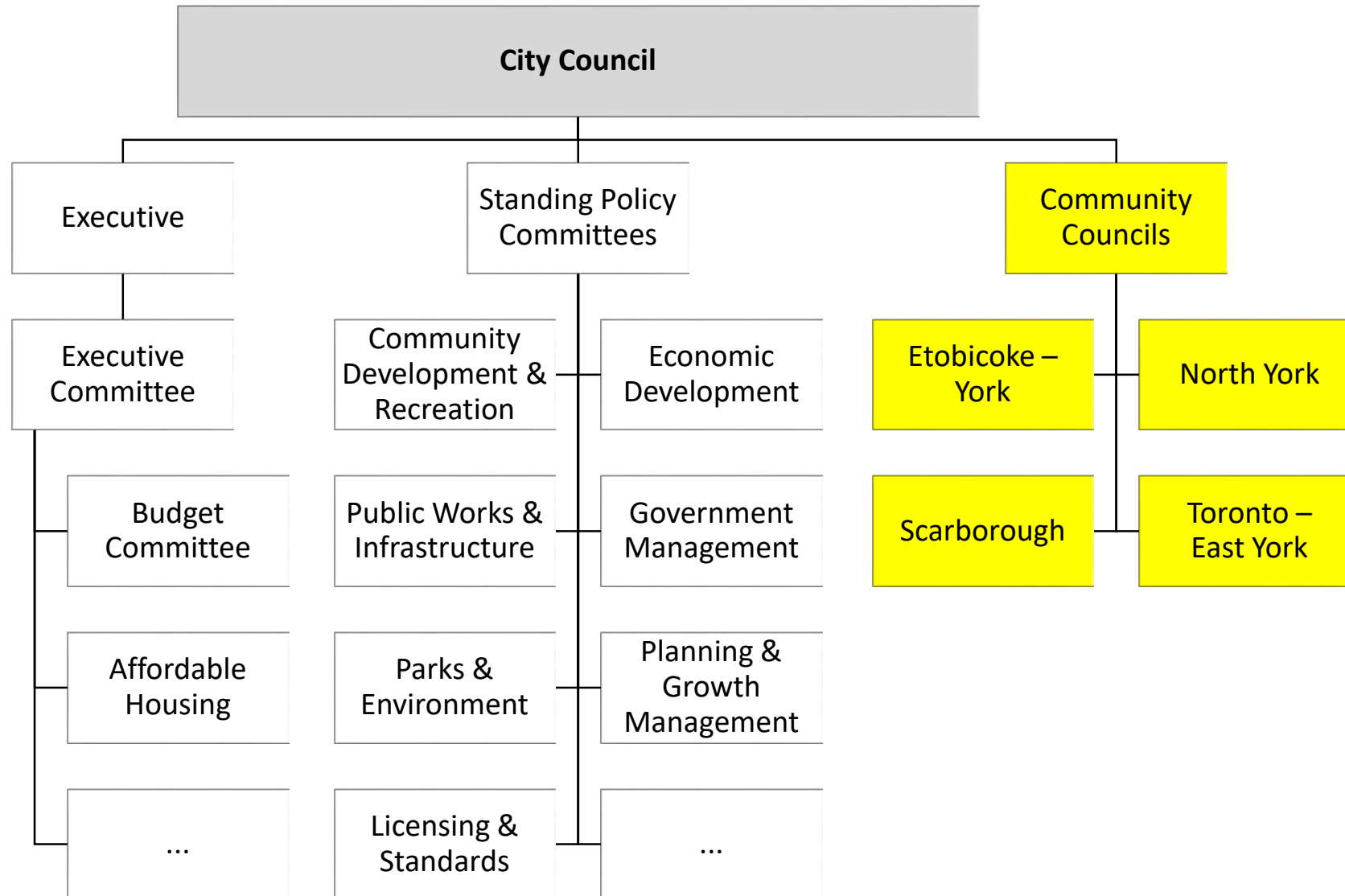
NORTH YORK

SCARBOROUGH

ETOBICOKE YORK

TORONTO

Community Councils created to consider "local" issues



There are limits to delegated powers

1. Local routine matters should be delegated to Community Council for final decision;
2. Only matters that can be legally delegated will be delegated;
3. Matters that are City-wide will not be delegated; and
4. Community Councils should not have final decision-making powers on matters that fetter Council's subsequent decision on a City-wide matter or on a matter that cannot be delegated.

And a local participation role

1.1. Public presentations and recommendations on neighbourhood matters.

Includes:

- Citizen participation on neighbourhood issues (s. 3)
- Recommendations on policy and research about local matters (s. 5)
- Recommendations about planning applications of City-wide interest (s. 6)
- Community information meetings on planning applications with City-wide interest (s. 7)


2. What do community councils actually do?



MEETINGS



Community Councils have three functions



Delegated Authority

- signs
- permit parking
- traffic calming
- boulevard café permits
- ...



Decision Making Authority

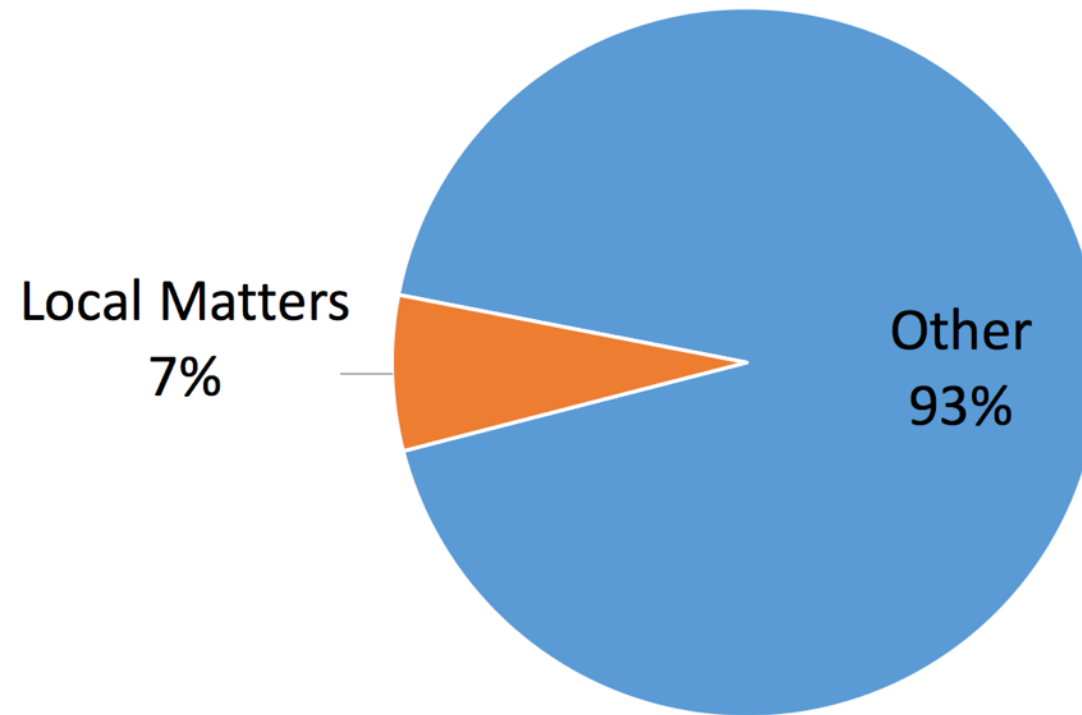
- statutory hearings under Planning Act
- planning applications of city-wide interest
- ravines and trees



Local Matters

- certain citizen appointments
- “neighborhood matters”

7% of Community Council decisions are "local" matters



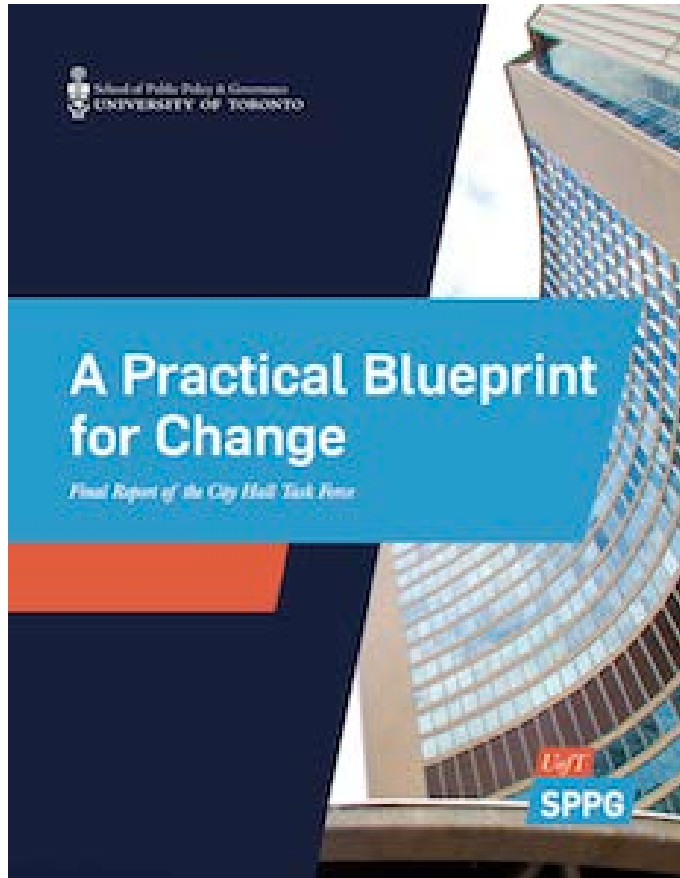
	Other	Local Matters	Total
Etobicoke	335	38	373
North York	336	22	358
Scarborough	204	29	233
Toronto-East York	755	35	790
Total	1630	124	1754

“So community council, first of all I think it’s unfortunate, or fortunate, the term council. The term “council” ascribes more, or there appears to be more kind of autonomy, or more of governance role than I think in reality. ... I just see them as geographic standing committees at Council.”

3. What role could
community council serve?

Community Councils
can have a stronger and
broader role as “local”
decision making bodies

SPPG City Hall Task Force recommends more delegation



Recommendation 6: Enhanced Community Councils

Council should delegate further responsibility and decision-making authority to Community Councils so that City Council can focus on city-wide priorities, and direct city staff to identify specific opportunities for delegation that could be in place by the start of the next Council term.

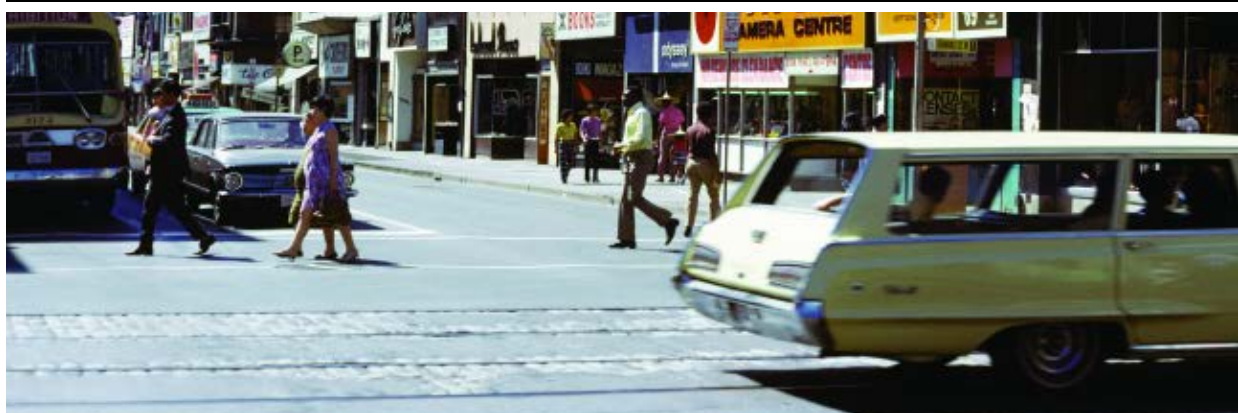
There are other possibilities for community councils



THE THREE CITIES WITHIN TORONTO

Income Polarization Among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005

BY J. DAVID HULCHANSKI, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



TORONTO LIFE February 2014 \$5.95

THE BEST ROB FORD MEMORABILIA p.24

Jian Ghomeshi, raw and off the air p.44

The rise of underground surrogacy p.54

HAUTE CARIBBEAN COOKING p.70

THE DIVIDED CITY

A PORTRAIT OF TORONTO IN 2014

LEGEND: ■ FORD NATION ■ EVERYONE ELSE

A SPECIAL ISSUE ON HOW TO UNITE THE TWO TORONTOS

THE BIG PICTURE SOLUTION by CHRIS SELLEY * THE VIEW FROM SCARBOROUGH by NAHEED MUSTAFA
DOWNTOWN SHOULD SHARE THE WEALTH by PHILIP PREVILLE * THE REAL REXDALE by JEET HEER
WHY MY PARENTS CHOOSE FORD by SIMON YAU * plus WHO'S VOTING HOW IN 2014
— AND MORE —

MARIANA VALVERDE



EVERYDAY LAW ON THE STREET



CITY GOVERNANCE IN AN AGE OF DIVERSITY



“Democracy at the scale of the city [...] requires careful attention to the mechanisms used to solicit input and allow for citizen participation.”

Reimagining Community Councils

	NOW	FUTURE
Membership	Councillors	Councillors and Community Members
Focus	Efficiency - Reduce City Council workload - Keep councillors busy	Participation and Representation
Delegated Authority	Itemized list of delegated duties re traffic, parking, street signs, planning, zoning	Expanded delegated and decision-making powers on broader set of local issues
Budget	No	Yes
Governance	Minimal change	Deliberate and regular review



...ing up

SNACKS

PAMMANIA

TORONTO

Thank you!