



# EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Mario G. Lafrenière

## Parts of the Ontario Municipal Act need to change

The major derailment of Toronto's municipal government reaffirms the need to make immediate changes to the Ontario Municipal Act. Aside from making a mockery of Toronto, our province and country, Mayor Rob Ford is also making us aware that our provincial municipal act is patchy at best.

I have to agree with Sudbury's mayor Marianne Matichuk in her desire to have

recall legislated for all levels of government. Tory MPP Randy Hillier introduced a bill late last month calling for recall for provincial politicians.

In which segment of our so called "Free democratic society" do we put up with such outrageous behaviour not only with personal substance abuse issues but with association with drugs and organized crimes. Would a

teacher keep his or her job? Would a law officer keep his job? Doctors have been booted out by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario for a lot less than what has been happening at Toronto's city hall. I do have sympathy for substance abusers but this goes beyond that. Drug deals, organized crime, lewdness and I'm certain serious allegations will

continue to surface. Like a fine citizen of our town said: "Had J.M Shoup taught him, he probably wouldn't be in trouble today".

The latest polls suggest that 62% of voters would not vote again, under any circumstances, for Rob Ford. This is somewhat disturbing. Don't you think that it should be 100%. What does this say about our society? It seems like the exposure of wrongdoings by certain politicians is slowly dissipating our morals and values. Have we developed an immunity to this bad behaviour? To those who believe that Rob Ford was doing a good job need to re-examine their ability to reason. A social code of conduct is expected

from each and every citizen in this country. Elected officials are not exempt and should lead the population by example. Rob Ford did not do that! Parents of a young family called one of the Toronto councillors complaining about how drastically influenced her children were with Ford's not so funny delusional buffoonery. The kids were playing "Cops and Rob Ford". Fine job, Mr. Ford!

We need to have the municipal act changed. The sooner the better. We need to be protected, as municipalities and taxpayers, from those elected officials who choose to get involved in conflicts of interest, dishonesty and bad behaviour. We need to

be able to get rid of the bad apples expediently and the voters should have the right to do so, democratically, with a recall and at very little or no cost to the taxpayer.

This embarrassment to the Canadian people could have been prevented had the right tools been in place.

The cost to taxpayers will probably exceed the million dollar mark after all of this is done and dealt with.

To spite the councillors, Ford will push this to the legal limit, no pun intended, as he is now playing the victim card.

We need to make our MPPs aware of our dissatisfaction with the Municipal act.