

BOX 54, STN F
TORONTO M4Y 2L4



april-may '78

REFORMETRO

election strategy adopted

by Dieter Hohenberger

ReforMetro's third annual convention at Innis College on April 1 approved a comprehensive plan of action to guide the organization in the next municipal election. The plan outlines a strategy for endorsing and assisting reform candidates for all levels of municipal government.

Members made only minor changes to the policy paper on electoral strategy before approving it. The document was presented by Allan Sparrow, chairman of the ad-hoc organizing committee. Susan Atkinson, re-elected as secretary-treasurer of ReforMetro, called the convention the "least contentious we've ever had," saying it indicated a broad support for ReforMetro's policies by members.

One of the changes made to the paper was to drop specific reference to the New Democratic Party in a section dealing with co-operation between ReforMetro and other progressive groups. Members said the reference might be disturbing to people who support ReforMetro's platform but do not consider themselves NDP. The reference was replaced with "other progressive political groups."

The convention, however, emphasized again the need for close liaison between ReforMetro and both the NDP and the

Labour Council in the selection of candidates. Members stressed the need to avoid competition between reform candidates chosen by the three groups. In the last election, competing reform candidates in several wards lost seats on City Council by splitting the reform vote.

After adopting the electoral strategy, the convention considered a number of other motions. Members endorsed Anne Johnston as interim mayor for the City of Toronto should David Crombie step down. They also voted to commend City Council for calling on Pierre Trudeau to oppose the neutron bomb, and urged Borough councils to do the same.

The convention re-elected Liz White as chairperson and Kerry McCuaig as vice-chairperson. (Complete election results on page 2)

The convention received broad coverage by the press. CBC-TV carried a story on the Saturday night local news. The Globe had a story the Monday after and a column by Dick Beddoes. Sunday Star columnist David Lewis Stein wrote a piece on ReforMetro but not on the convention. The Toronto Sun was absent as usual.

The convention, attended by 150 people, signed up 35 members and boosted the bank balance to \$800.

coordinating committee

Chairperson:	LIZ WHITE
Vice-Chairperson:	KERRY McCUAIG
Secretary/Treasurer:	SUSAN ATKINSON
Education (separate):	JOHN MEDEIROS
(public):	JOHN BUTTRICK
Liaison:	BRIAN CONWAY
Etoibicoke rep:	BILL LONGRIDGE
York rep:	NINO D'APRILE
Toronto rep:	ABRAHAM BLANK
North York rep:	PHIL LIBMAN
Scarborough rep:	DENIS CASEY
East York rep:	STEPHEN MILNE
Membership/Newsletter:	SUSAN SPARROW
Ex-Officio aldermen:	MARILYN MESHBERG ALLAN SPARROW

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chairperson:	BARB HURD
Issues:	FRANK BURNS
Electoral:	RICHARD ANSTETT
Recruiting:	JOAN DOIRON

For information call: Liz White, 367-7903

The ReforMetro NEWSLETTER is published every two months for its membership. Items for publication should be sent to Editor, Susan Sparrow, Box 54, Station F, Toronto, MAY 2L4. (telephone: 367-7914)

APRIL & MAY dates

Thurs.	ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
<u>APRIL 20:</u>	Toronto City Hall
6:30pm	Committee Room 1
8 pm	PUBLIC AGENDA REVIEW Committee Room 1 (discuss the Council agenda)
Saturday	WARD 6 PARTY
<u>APRIL 22:</u>	all welcome!
8pm	519 Church Street Centre
Monday	YORK COUNCIL MEETING
<u>APRIL 24:</u>	Referendum on the Spadina
8pm	Expressway.
Monday	CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
<u>MAY 1:</u>	City Hall
6pm	Committee Room 3
Wednesday	NORTH YORK RENT REVIEW MEETING
<u>MAY 3:</u>	York Woods Library
7pm	1785 Finch West
8pm	METROPLAN--ETOIBICOKE Municipal Building
Thursday	ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
<u>MAY 4:</u>	City Hall
6:30pm	Committee Room 1
8pm	PUBLIC AGENDA REVIEW City Hall, Room 1
8pm	EDUCATION COMMITTEE Education Centre, 155 College
8pm	METROPLAN--NORTH YORK Municipal Building
Tuesday	METROPLAN--YORK
<u>MAY 9:</u>	Municipal Building
8pm	
Wednesday	METROPLAN--CITY
<u>MAY 10:</u>	Toronto City Hall
8pm	
Thursday	METROPLAN--EAST YORK
<u>MAY 11:</u>	Municipal Building
8pm	
Monday	CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
<u>MAY 15:</u>	City Hall
6pm	Committee Room 3
8pm	METROPLAN--SCARBOROUGH Civic Centre
Thursday *	RM DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
<u>MAY 18:</u>	Steelworkers' Hall
7pm	25 Cecil Street
Monday	CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
<u>MAY 29:</u>	City Hall
6pm	3rd floor podium room

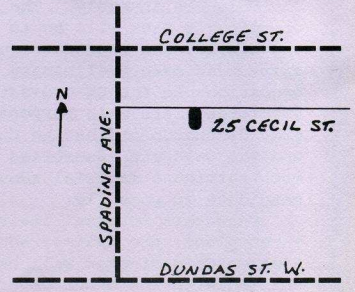
REFORM METRO

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY to Endorse Candidates

thurs. May 18, 7pm steelworkers' hall ²⁵ CECIL ST.

AGENDA

- 1. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES
for Councils & School Boards
 - 2. BUSINESS REFERRED FROM CONVENTION
 - 3. NEW BUSINESS
- fees: \$2 regular; \$1 unemployed, students, seniors



ALL MEMBERS and FRIENDS WELCOME

 REMEMBER THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
 TO ENDORSE CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILS
 AND SCHOOL BOARDS...

THURSDAY, May 18
 7pm sharp
 STEELWORKERS' HALL
 25 Cecil St.

Liaising with progressive groups

by Liz White, Chairperson
 and chief Liaison Officer

One of ReforMetro's principal functions over the past seven months has been to ensure ongoing liaison with other progressive political groups involved at the municipal level. Co-operation, achieved through liaison, will be the key to success in the next municipal election and was re-affirmed as an important goal at the Annual Convention. Primary liaison responsibility will be handled by myself and the Liaison Co-ordinator Brian Conway. It will involve discussions at the Ward level, City and Borough levels and at times at the Metro level, so that reform candidates contest only the number of positions available.

Within ReforMetro, another level of liaison has been established to work on the candidate endorsement process. The special committee made up of 2 members from the Co-ordinating Committee and 2 members from the Organizing Committee will be meeting to review the credentials of the candidates seeking endorsement at the Delegate Assembly. The committee's task will be to review and clarify the candidate questionnaires and make preliminary recommendations to the Co-ordinating Committee. Its main purpose is to provide the Co-ordinating Committee and the Delegate Assemblies with as much pertinent material about the candidate as possible.

Once this internal liaison has taken place, the Chairperson and the Liaison Co-ordinator will be consulting with the other progressive political groups in an effort to co-ordinate candidate selection.

ATTENTION POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Candidates seeking the endorsement of ReforMetro are requested to complete the following questionnaire and return it to the Coordinating Committee, c/o Liz White, Box 54, Station F, Toronto, M4Y 2L4 (phone: 367-7903).

The Coordinating Committee will review the questionnaire, consult with the candidate and persons in the community and make a recommendation to a meeting of the Delegate Assembly which will make the final decision.

DELEGATE ASSEMBLIES TO ENDORSE CANDIDATES ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 18 and SEPTEMBER 28. Consideration will be given to adding to this schedule if required.

Persons seeking endorsement for the May 18 meeting should send their application to the Coordinating Committee as soon as possible.

At the May 18 meeting, if there are any outstanding questions about any candidates or Ward or Borough situations, motions of deferral to the September 28 meeting will be in order.

It is likely that in some cases candidates cannot or will not fully subscribe to the ReforMetro program nor meet all of the selection criteria. They may still be eligible for endorsement depending on the weight which the Coordinating Committee and Delegate Assembly give to the different factors.

At the September 28 Delegate Assembly some candidates who do not meet endorsement standards may still be recommended as the best candidates running in their area.

ARE YOU A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE
 SEEKING THE ENDORSATION OF ReforMetro?
 COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED QUESTIONNAIRE
 AND RETURN IT TO: LIZ WHITE,
 ReforMetro, Box 54, Station F,
 Toronto, M4Y 2L4. DO IT TODAY
 IF YOU WISH TO BE CONSIDERED AT
 THE MAY 18 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY.

ReforMetro Candidate Questionnaire	Borough	Position	Ward
Name	Address	Phone (day)	Phone (pm)
Questions	No	Yes	Qualifications (If Any)
1. Agreement with ReforMetro program.			
2. Cooperate and meet regularly with other ReforMetro-endorsed candidates.			
3. Commitment to work in a caucus format with other reform politicians.			
4. Work to resolve program differences among other progressive groups.			
5. Commitment to cooperate during election with other reform candidates.			
6. Meet regularly with ReforMetro members in constituency.			
7. Attend ReforMetro Delegate Assemblies and Conventions.			
8. Commitment to involvement with ReforMetro regardless of election results.			
9. No contributions accepted from principals involved in real estate, development or land.			
10. Divulge campaign donors to date two to four weeks before election.			
11. Divulge campaign donors within 90 days after election date.			
12. Are you resident in constituency in which you are running?			
13. Undertake not to run against candidates endorsed by ReforMetro.			
14. Work as a full-time elected official if elected.			
15. Not using ReforMetro for other than achieving goals of ReforMetro.			
16. Will work to organize constituency ... tenants, community, labour special interest groups.			
17. Will speak out for minority groups and against racism.			

LIST PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY	REFERENCES		
	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE

What program initiatives will you bring forward if elected?

ELECTION CAMPAIGN DETAILS

Projected Budget? _____	No. of Canvasses? _____	Use of ReforMetro colours (red, white, green)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Storefront Office? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	No. of pieces of literature? _____	Translation of literature? _____ (Specify languages)
Hours of personal canvassing time? _____	Special tenant literature? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	List other known candidates in your constituency with whom you could cooperate. _____ _____
No. of volunteers expected to work on campaign: _____	Union Bug or "Volunteer Produced" label on all literature? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

LIST PERSONAL ASSETS AND THOSE OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

_____ Date

_____ Signature

EDUCATION COMMITTEE WHO CONTROLS THE SCHOOLS?

by Joan Doiron

At the April 1 Convention delegates received a 22-page copy of the Reformetro program. Unfortunately, it did not contain the expanded education policy which was approved about two years ago. The missing resolutions contain policies on streaming, class size, the role of the trustee, education finance, school size and work experience. But most importantly there is a resolution calling for mandatory community councils with paralegal status in every school community.

The Education Committee is charged with finding trustees to run who are determined to realize this policy which is crucial to communities having a real say in the decision making in their schools. Current trustees argue that one cannot determine a policy which will apply to all schools since they are so diverse. We note, however, that this does not prevent Boards of Education from setting down structures which determine the rights of teachers, administrators and trustees. Somehow it is only the communities which are to operate without specified rights and structures--there will be groups formed "when the community is ready" (read: "when and if the principals are ready to form them") and, as a Toronto Board document claims, communities "have a right not to be involved" (this is clearly the only right communities can be assured of!)

The result? School communities are powerless except when trustees and administrators deign to bow to their wishes. There is no independent voice for communities. The so-called "Decentralization" Report implemented by the Toronto Board 2 years ago has had the effect of making communities even more powerless. Before, at least, trustees, as community representatives, could be appealed to, but now that we have "local control" (read: "more control in the hands of local principals and superintendents"), there is no appeal from these local administrative decisions. Staffing committees which have parent representation are carefully structured so that parents will always be outvoted.

Across Metro very few school community

groups exist and even fewer actually accomplish anything. Their existence is completely at the discretion of the principals. Most community people respond by having nothing to do with the operation of their local schools.

This is tragic--particularly in suburban areas since the local elementary school is often the only local institution which should act as a community focus. The school-as-community-centre concept cannot happen if there is not an active group making decisions and running programs.

We see the tragic effects of communities having no voice in the school closing issue in North York. Just last week the Board voted to close Wilmington School (quickly and against the community's wishes) and there are plans to close 24% of North York's elementary schools. Heritage language programs and French schools suffer from this same failure to give a voice to communities.

This issue touches on every educational concern and should be a high priority in the upcoming elections. The Education Committee is setting up public accountability meetings at which the records of the trustees will be discussed and acted upon. For further information call the Education Co-Chairpersons: John Buttrick (667-2407) and John Medeiros (536-1166).

IS THE HERITAGE LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIVISIVE?

excerpted from an Editorial in Comunidade
(a Portuguese language newspaper)

The Heritage Language Program, as it was conceived, and as it is presently administered in Toronto schools, is politically motivated, controversial, a point of division between the ethnic and Canadian communities, an application of energy and resources to secondary aspects of education instead of to the problems that most affect immigrant students.

This program was a hasty electoral promise made before the last provincial election by the Conservative Party with the aim of swinging immigrant votes. Since this promise did not result in electoral gains for the PCs, it will have to be reassessed

in the future.

Heritage Language is a controversial program because while it is financed by public funds, it is not accessible and applicable to all taxpayers. It is a privilege creating an understandable opposition and antagonism among the non-immigrant taxpayers and those that do not benefit from the program. It creates a serious and regrettable division between ethnic and Canadian communities.

Heritage Language impoverishes the creative capacity of communities, destroying the organizations which they had already built and through which they efficiently administered programs of a cultural and linguistic nature.

The administration of this program by the Board of Education is burdensome, bureaucratic and expensive. It uses up financial resources that could be better used informing immigrant parents of their rights and duties in relation to the education of their children in Canada. The time, energy and finances could be used to set up tutoring programs geared for those students who undoubtedly will fail and end up with an incomplete education which will not only harm the individual but also society at large.

Finally, we arrive at the blind or planned lack of perspective on the part of the Board of Education in their priorities regarding the education of the children of immigrant and working class parents. There has been no remodeling of the existing programs to reflect the real needs and interests of these children. There is no stress on teaching the English language and other important subjects with special tutoring after school. There is no study made of ways in which to motivate these children and involve their parents. There is no use made of the large number of bilingual teachers who could assist in the gradual integration of the recently arrived immigrants to the regular school program.

On the contrary, the Board embarks on a philosophy of multiculturalism that is vague and innocuous. The Board forgets that immigrant parents, like all Canadian parents, prefer education which stresses fundamental subjects--an education that is structured and effective.

WANT TO DISCUSS THIS VIEW OF HERITAGE LANGUAGE FURTHER? Contact JOHN MEDEIROS ReforMetro Education Co-Chairperson at 536-1166. JOIN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.



On Sun. June 4 Toronto will celebrate International Cyclists' Day, a project sponsored by the City Cycling Committee. The day is celebrated by cyclists in 300 cities around the world.

At noon, cyclists will gather at three locations--Lawrence Park, Monarch Park and High Park. They will converge on Queen's Park at 1 pm and then move down Yonge St. for a rally and displays in Nathan Phillips Sq. until 4 pm. The parade will then move to Harbourfront.

Help is needed to set up displays and do publicity. Contact Ina Thompson, 367-7031 if you can help.

The City Cycling Committee is made up of people interested in seeing the bicycle integrated (as per ReforMetro policy) into the transportation system in Metro. The Committee meets at City Hall on Tuesday nights at 7pm.

INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING: TRANSPORTATION; HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES, EDUCATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND RACISM, JOBS & THE ECONOMY, MUNICIPAL FINANCE?

Contact Frank Burns at 924-6305 or Barb Hurd at 364-1486.

DISCUSSION--POLICY--ACTION!
 GET INVOLVED NOW.

RENEW NOW

PAID YOUR 1978 MEMBERSHIP YET?

Make cheques payable to:

"ReforMetro"

Mail them to: Box 54, Station F
 Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2L4.

fees: \$5 regular

\$2.50 unemployed, student

A membership entitles you to voting rights & the newsletter.