

MMR

movement for municipal reform (reform metro)

P.O. Box 258
Postal Station 'C'
Toronto, Ont.
368-6800

Dear Member,

The Convention is over and was an unqualified success. We now have 250 members and 150 attended the convention. The policy passed at the convention has been run of in a readable form even though it has not yet been printed in a final form and is available. We are holding meetings in the boroughs and ward meetings across the city.

We have continued to keep busy since the convention but our full time organizer is no longer employed by us, and even though we met expenses for the convention we were unable to repay the \$1,000 which members of the Convention Committee loaned the MMR to hire the organizer.

We have plans for the future. We would like to get the policy printed in a small booklet and a monthly newsletter. We would like to be able to employ another person in the organizers position, the salary would be about \$150 per week. A mailing costs about \$200 for the total membership, the postage alone for a comprehensive mailing is \$80.00. The phone is \$25.00 per month and someday we would like to have our own office. We are asking that you either pledge \$10.00 per month for the next year or make one lump sum donation.

The Delegate Assembly will be held in March and the election if only one year away. This is the time to make us strong financially so that we can put all our energies into political action at a later date. This organization can be a success and will be but it depends on you.

Thank you and I will be calling you within the next week or two.

Yours truly,

Marty Crowder

Marty Crowder
Treasurer



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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

CONVENTION REPORT

We are pleased to report that the membership of the MMR is approximately 250 people and growing through ward organizations. The Convention was well received by the press, especially the Friday evening panel discussion with members from the Montreal Citizens Movement which stimulated some good discussion. The 150 people who attended worked hard both Saturday and Sunday to produce a comprehensive program and constitution for the Movement.

We will be printing the Program in a covered booklet early in the new year. Draft copies are now available on request by contacting the office.....368-6800 - 165 Spadina #26, at Queen.

The Convention elected a co-ordinating committee of 8 people to carry out activities between Delegate Assemblies as follows:

Coordinator - Sarah Power, 238 Withrow Ave. Tor. Ward 8
telephone home: 463-4657, work: 364-1486

Secretary - Carry Neil, 382 Montrose Ave., Tor. Ward 4
telephone home: 534-2004

Treasurer - Marty Crowder, 266 Crawford St. Tor. Ward 4
telephone home: 536-0971, work: 923-9869

Committee Chairpersons:

Kerry McCuaig, 150 Dowling Ave. Apt. 506 Tor. Ward 2
telephone home: 537-3611 work: 925-5657

Bill Longridge 10 Primrose Ave., Etobicoke Ward 5
telephone home: 251-0219

Michelle McGinnis, 81 Barker Ave. East York
telephone home: 423-6497 work: 699-3554

Alice Head 29 Wales Ave. Toronto Ward 6
telephone home: 363-7804 work 487-1565

Katie Havhurst 19 London Green Court #100 North York Ward 3
telephone home: 636-4893 work: 225-4611

Co-ordinating Committee Report

The Co-ordinating Committee has had three meetings since the convention. Our main objectives at the present time are setting up ward and borough organizations and defining issues.

WARD & BOROUGH ORGANIZATIONS

MMR Meetings have been held in Ward 5 Toronto and North York (twice already). The Ward 4 Community Organization is a member of the MMR and meets bi-weekly. Meetings are scheduled in the New Year in York, Ward 6, 7, 8, 9, Toronto and East York. Further contacts are being made in Etobicoke and Wards 1,2,10, 11, and in Scarborough. The borough and Ward organizations are to develop a base in local areas to carry out the program of the MMR through action on Ward, borough and Metro issues. What we are trying to foster is a consistent progressive political approach to all issues so that there is ongoing support between groups across Metro on various issues. The ward organizations are also working towards selecting and endorsing candidates that support the MMR program for the next election. The following are a list of contacts for each ward and borough. Get in touch with the person in your area for further information.

Ward and Borough Contacts

Ward 1 - Diana Buettner, 62 Gothic Ave. 769-8133 home, 962-3904 work

Ward 2 - Eleanor Bro, 63 O'Hara. 537-1441 home, 531-2411 work

Ward 3 - Wey Robinson, 368 Concord Ave. 534-2809 home

Ward 4 - Zoya Stevenson - Ward 4 Community Organization
534-2004 home, 531-2411 work

Ward 5 - Barry Pinsky 923-5452

Ward 6 - Alice Head, 363-7804 home, 487-1565 work

Ward 7 - John Bizzell, 465-2809

Ward 8 - Sarah Power, 463-4657 home, 368-6800 work

Ward 9 - Glen Davis, 690-4640

Ward 10 - Bob Armstrong, 489-9401

Ward 11 - Don Feldman, 482-6317

East York - Michelle McGinnis, 423-6497 home, 699-3554 work

Etobicoke - Bill Longridge, 251-0219

North York - David Skitch, 757-7291

Scarborough - Peggy Witt, 282-5110

York - Terry Fowler, 651-9772 home, 487-6188 work

ISSUES: 400 EXTENSION

With the recent announcement by Mr. Snow, Minister of Transportation that the province will pay for the extension of Highway 400 to St. Clair and that Metro will pay part of the cost back over the next few years, the Citizens Transportation Coalition (CTC) has been reactivated. They have already had two rallies of 100 people at Queen's Park to hear Ed Ziemba, M.P.P. for High Park speak against the extension. Right now they are gathering more support in the west end and many of our west end members are active on the campaign. The CTC have approached the MMR to come out with a statement in support of them and activate our membership to join the campaign against the province. Before we take a stand we want to hear from our members. We are doing this through Ward Organizations, but anyone not a part of one is urged to phone the office (368-6800) to make their view known as soon as possible.

ISSUES: TEACHERS STRIKE

The Education Committee of the MMR composed of parents, students teachers and trustees met to discuss the possibility of a statement from the MMR about the present Metro wide teachers strike. After hours of discussion it was resolved that we stand for the legal right of the teachers to bargain collectively to reach a settlement and that the proposed cut backs in education will only worsen the quality of education and therefore must be strongly opposed. The statement was revised by the co-ordinating committee and is being presented here for your feed back. It has been sent to all Metro boards of education, the Ontario Secondary Federation of Teachers, The press and to Mr. Wells Minister of Education and the Anti Inflation Board.

The Movement for Municipal Reform (Reform Metro) calls for a settlement of the Metro Teachers' strike through the legal collective bargaining process. The basis of such a settlement through that process has been laid in the Fact Finder's Report, and should not be influenced by what could or could not happen in the later processes of the Anti-Inflation Review Board.

The Government of Ontario has proposed that the crisis in education (both quality and finance) should be resolved by cut-backs. All educational expenditures are being curtailed. Reform Metro is firmly opposed to such a view. This approach to the crisis will aggravate conditions and we urge the teachers and elected school boards to develop proposals in consultation with the public to solve the problems in the education system. Proposals should be developed to change the taxation base of education to those most able to pay. For, example, industry should be required to take a significant financial responsibility for the vocational training from which it benefits.

Contact Michelle McGuinness Chairperson of the education Committee 423-6497 with your comments. The next meeting is planned for early in January.

Policy Decision Making

The coordinating Committee has established the following procedure for the formation of major policy decisions or for the preparation of briefs which are to be presented to government bodies and committees.

1. The membership will be advised by means of a newsletter that we are preparing a brief. The suggested major points will be outlined in such an advisement. Members are asked to respond within a few weeks with their views.
2. A committee will be established to write the brief. Any member of the MMR can present his/her views to that committee or to any member of the Coordinating Committee.
3. The brief will be forwarded to the Coordinating Committee for discussion and adoption.
4. Any member who so requests will be able to receive a copy after its final presentation.
5. If time limitations are such that a newsletter can not be distributed to the total membership, the Coordinating Committee will conduct a poll of affiliated Ward Organizations.
6. Any press release to be issued will be approved by the full Coordinating Committee.

All meetings of the Coordinating Committee are open to any member of Reform Metro. Contact the office or the Secretary for information concerning time and place of the meetings.

ISSUES

Rent Control

The MMR presented a brief to the Rent Control Special Committee of the legislature December 2nd, which was well received by the Committee for its comprehensiveness. We had numerous recommendations on rent control and security of tenure, most of which are in line with the Federation of Metro Tenants Association positions. Anyone wanting a copy can have one by calling the office at 368-6800, or Kelly McCuaig -- Chairperson of the policy committee. 537-3611 home 925-5659

ISSUES: DAYCARE

Barbara Greene, as head of the Social Services recommended to the Budget Review Committee two weeks ago, in keeping with provincial policy on daycare that no new daycare centres be built this year. The Social Services Committee had previously planned six centres - 3 in Etobicoke, 1 in North York, 1 in East York and 1 in Toronto. As well Greene announced that all existing centres would be limited to a 8% increase in operating expenses, which shows how time and time again social services are the first to be cut back when things get tough budget wise. This drastic situation is being combated by the Day Care Reform Alliance which is mobilizing people, especially the existing day care community centres, from across Metro and the Etobicoke Social Planning Council. The MMR was approached by the Daycare Reform Alliance to organize a response to the Budget Review Committee. We are going to present a general brief to the Committee and a deputation from each borough and the city by our members.

Anyone interested in this fight against cutbacks to necessary social services is asked to contact Marie Murphy 920-4631 home, 367-7911 work; or Leon Muszynski 767-1867.

ISSUES: POLICY COMMITTEE

The Committee is now looking for people to help prepare a brief to the Roberts Commission at the end of January. The focus of the report is taxation reform for municipalities and metro structure. Call Kerry McCuaig 537-3611 home or 925-5657 work or Nelson Clarke, 535-3274 home, 531-2411 work so a meeting early in January can be set up. It is important that members from across Metro be involved so that we have a representative viewpoint.

ORGANIZER

Marie Murphy, our full time organizer, is now aldermanic assistant to Dan Heap, Ward 6 City of Toronto. She will continue to work for the MMR through her new job. One important job Marie is doing is monitoring Metro Committee and Council agendas and notifying groups across Metro of items relevant to them. Marie wants to encourage people to phone her at work 367-7911 if there is anything they want to know in regards to Metro matters. We have no plans right now to hire another full time worker until we are in a better financial position

UPCOMING MEETINGS

North York Borough Organization - January 26th, 8 P.M. North York Borough Offices, Committee Room #2. 5000 Yonge St. N. of Sheppard Ave. Agenda: Priority of issues for organization.

Issues & Organizing Committee - will meet the first Thursday of every month - January 8th 6:30 p.m. North York Borough Offices, Committee Room #2, 5000 Yonge Street. Agenda: How to carry out the Aims of the Committee.

Coordinating Committee - January 5th 8P.M. Michelle McGinnis's house 81 Barker Ave. East York.