



Region Election 2010

Press release

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Bruce Timms is running for Regional Council in the Oct 25 Municipal Elections. He filed his nomination papers today at St.Catharines City hall.

His top priorities for the next term are ,

Some unfinished business ;

- 1) GO Rail Service for Niagara, and Regional Transit network,
- 2) Welland Canals Corridor Strategy, including designation of the Historical Canals as National Historic Sites, and the Ports Niagara Strategy for economic growth,
- 3)Single tier Water and Waste Water utility, get rid of two tier duplication and reduce cost

The concept of reducing two tier Water and waste water services to single tier service leads to the number one priority for the new term,

Reform of Regional Governance,

Integrate region and local councils, eliminate the 18 Region only councillors and put city councillors at the Regional table and elect the Regional Chair at Large.

Six St.Catharines City councillors would do double duty and serve at the Region and the City. This model is used in Burlington and Oakville of Halton Region and Oshawa and Whitby of Durham Region.

Less two Tier , more Team Niagara.

The Regional Council becomes a team of city and town Councillors working together for the good of the entire Region. The Regional Chair is elected at large by the voters of the whole Region like the Halton model. This model works elsewhere in the Province , is proven to be successful and I believe it can be supported by all the 12 municipalities in time for the next Municipal election, 2014.

It is a Forty Year face lift for Regional government, after 40 years it is time to improve the governance model of Niagara, to focus on the team of 12 communities, integrate the councils of the local communities into a Regional Council that works together with good understanding of the local council's challenges. Get rid of the structured separation into two tiers and focus on teamwork. It has worked well when the joint committees at the Region include local city councillors from Niagara Falls and Welland and Thorold and all the others sitting around the table working out common problems. "The Forty Year Facelift, or Forty Year Fix for Niagara is overdue and it will be my top priority in the new term. Less Two Tier more Team Niagara" said Timms.

Regional Councillor Bruce Timms has served on Regional Council since 1991, has served as Chair of Public Health Committee, Chair of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Steering Committee, he sits on the Board of Niagara Regional Housing.