



Rejuvenating Politics - Time for Term limits.

September 2010

In the next two years, we will vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections. We have fixed election dates at all three levels of government. The federal election date is a movable-fixed date as we saw in the past two federal elections

In my book, **One Canada, Creating the Greatest Country on Earth**, I proposed fixed election dates, every five years, with a three-term limit for politicians at all levels. Many seek elected office with grand intentions for positive changes. Some wanting positive changes are left on the scrap heap of politics. Others seek to serve the people in a public capacity and meekly do so with passion. Still, others enter politics for the rewards; added responsibility, greater status, to satisfy an ego or seek higher esteem. Too many politicians stay on for too long, falling out of touch with their constituents and the evolving society.. Society is dynamic and governance must be dynamic. Governments face mounting pressures to increase taxation and decrease service levels in order to balance budgets and eliminate public debts. We need new ideas on solving the problems of increasing government taxation, increasing cost of living, declining service levels and deteriorating infrastructure.

Now is the time for implementing term limits of five-year duration for not greater than three terms, ensuring a rejuvenation of our governing bodies. The higher profile that term limits will bring will rejuvenate politics and increase voter turnout at election time. Once elected, a politician may stay invisible, thereby increasing the chances of being re-elected, because of voter apathy. For the last fifteen years, our politicians have given less than stellar job performance while the people suffer economic hardships and deteriorating governance. With our “pass the buck” system of governance, simple and practical solutions evade our politicians and our quality of life inches along towards the hoped for prosperity.

In the past two decades, I have discussed term limits with many politicians. I recall one remarking there are term limits; Election Day and voters may throw out politicians at that time. No politicians were keen on term limits. Why would they; their interest is their own!



My public activities afforded me the knowledge required to assess political parties' platforms and candidates' suitability. In the past, all candidates I voted for, I have known personally. I voted for the person and the party. Every person is a member; supporter or sympathiser of one of our main political parties, even as they profess disliking politics. The character assassination of opponents has alienated the people and over the years, we lost trust and confidence in our leaders, feeling they are self-serving and ignorant of our interests.

The responsibility for term limits falls squarely with the federal government at the national level and the provincial government at the provincial and municipal levels. Even though we do not have term-limit laws, I encourage those who have been elected three times or more, totalling fifteen years or more, to support rejuvenation of politics and governance by passing the torch to someone else.

It is easy for politicians to align themselves along party lines, creating special-interest cliques of the "status quo" and the "power grabbers". Leaders must germinate new ideas to be developed in to new methodologies and solutions to be implemented by our public servants. We want new ideas for our city, province and country. We must rejuvenate politics and create dynamic governance.

The three elections in the next two years will be crucial to our stability and prosperity. I encourage all voters to VOTE. Pick a person, or a party who shares your beliefs; whom you feel will meet your need and vote! What kind of government will we get if we had 80% voter turnout for each of the next three elections?

*Cecil Young is a long-time resident of Mississauga who spent twenty years coaching soccer, being active in Municipal, Provincial and Federal politics and owner of a computer business. He is the Author of **One Canada, Creating the Greatest Country on Earth**, a book proposing five paradigms that will lead to Equality, Opportunity, Prosperity, Unity and Security. Contact Cecil at cecyoung@sbq.ca*