

**Proposed Changes to the Ralph Thornton
Centre's Constitution
February, 2008**

Why change the Constitution?

There are two main reasons. First, some city policies have changed due to the new City of Toronto Act. As a city agency the Ralph Thornton Community Centre is obliged to bring its constitution in line with the new policies. Second, our constitution was adopted in 1994 and it seems like a good time to update the constitution.

Last year the Provincial government passed the City of Toronto Act. This Act had wide ranging impacts on the way the city government is structured. The Act also gave city hall new powers. Based on some of the changes in city policy the Ralph Thornton Centre has to change or "harmonize" its constitution with the new city policies. We were not given a choice: our constitution cannot contradict city policy.

What are the Changes?

The major changes fall into three main categories: a) city mandated changes, b) making the constitution a more useful document, and c) streamlining board process.

City Mandated Changes

- * An additional section under Article II defining our structure and relationship with the City of Toronto
- * Revisions to board member eligibility requirements under Article V
- * Revisions to board responsibility under Article V

Making the Constitution More Useful

- * Addition of preamble and definitions

Improving Board Process

- * Deletion of Honorary Member for Article III
- * Changes to Notice of Annual General Meeting
- * Deletion of appointed board members from the Jimmie Simpson Recreation Centre, the Library, Woodgreen Community Services and the South Riverdale Health Centre
- * Changes to Terms of Office
- * Addition of a process for "closing" a board meeting
- * Clarification of rules around Quorum