

Do Direct Elections for Regional Heads of Council Make a Difference in Local Government?

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Presented by Michael Genova
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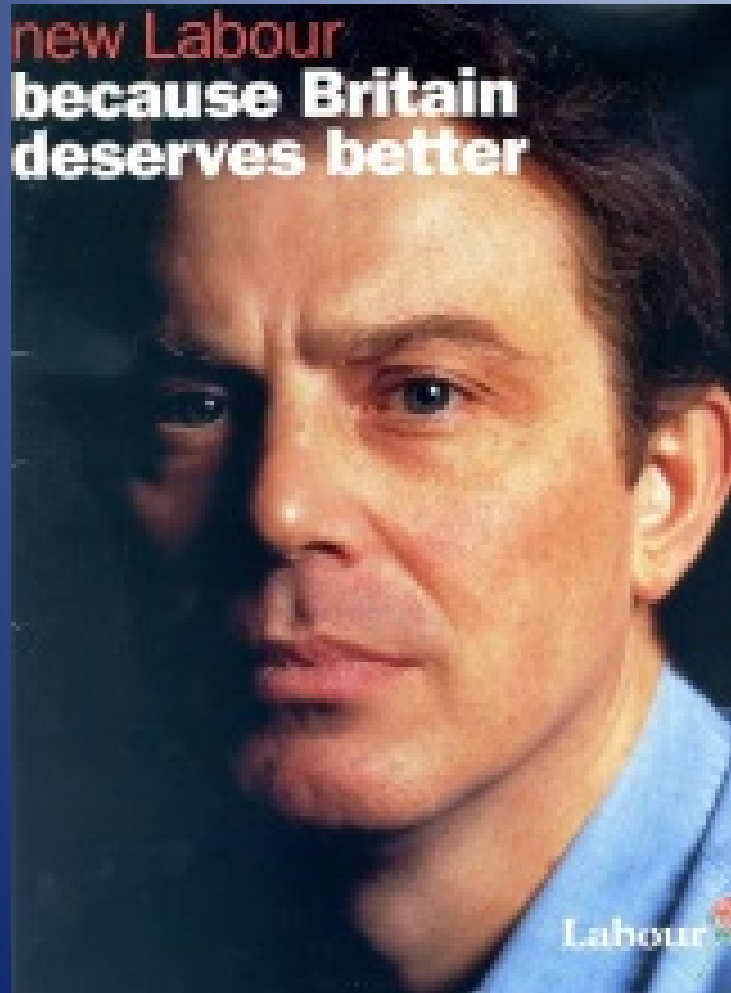
Context: Ongoing Debate

“Today we chose a Chair for the Region of Peel through a process I believe is flawed.”

-Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey

December 2014

British Context



Argument 1 – Improved Democratic Participation



Table 1. Regional Government Voter Turnout

Region	2010	2014
<u>Durham*</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>31%</u>
Halton*	34%	34%
Niagara	42%	41%
Peel	37%	35%
Waterloo*	34%	35%
York	40%	38%

**Indicates municipalities with directly-elected regional chairs*

Argument 2 – Candidate Recruitment and Qualifications



Table 2 Regional Chairs – Professional Backgrounds

Region	Incumbent Chair	Background
Durham	Roger Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appointed chair in 1997; elected in 2014; ● Ajax councillor from 1985-1997; ● Former police officer and business owner;
Halton	Gary Carr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elected chair in 2006; ● Halton MP 2004-2006; ● Oakville MPP 1990-2003;
Niagara	Alan Caslin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appointed chair in 2014; ● Regional councillor for St. Catharines: 2010-2014; ● 35 year career in business;
Peel	Frank Dale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elected to Mississauga and Peel Council in 1988 subsequently re-elected serving until appointment as chair in 2014;
Waterloo	Ken Seiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elected chair in 1997; ● Appointed chair in 1985-1997; ● Woolich mayor: 1978-1985; ● Elected Woolwich Town councillor: 1976; ● Teacher, museum curator, prior to elected office;
York	Wayne Emmerson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appointed chair in 2014; ● Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville 1994-2014; ● Whitchurch-Stouffville: 1988-1994

Argument 3 – Soft Powers



Concluding Thoughts

Thank you!

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