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FRIDAY...

Local councillors are seeking changes to the municipal election process in an effort to combat low voter turnout. See details Friday.

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Chong says 'non' to Quebec nation

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong resigned his cabinet post suddenly Monday over Prime Minister Stephen Harper's increasingly controversial resolution to formally recognize the Quebecois as a nation within Canada.

Chong, 35, quit as intergovernmental affairs minister responsible for the unity file and now sits as an ordinary MP, which allowed him to refrain from voting for the resolution that passed overwhelmingly in the Commons

Monday night. Cabinet ministers were ordered by the Prime Minister to vote with him.

Chong, who also held the minister of sport portfolio, called the resolution "nothing else than the recognition of ethnic nationalism, and that I cannot support."

"I also believe that recognizing the Quebecois as a nation will provide the sovereignists with an



MICHAEL CHONG

argument that they will use to confuse Quebecers in any future debate on sovereignty," said Chong. "They will argue if the Quebecois are a nation within Canada, the Quebecois are certainly a nation without Canada."

"I believe in one nation, undivided called Canada," Chong said. "This is a fundamental principle for me, not something on which I can or will compromise. Not now, not ever. While I'm loyal to my party and to my leader, my first loyalty is to my country."

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Chimes were music to Victoria's ears

Victoria Dale, 2, was dazzled by this set of chimes that were for sale at the annual Acton High School craft sale and show Saturday morning.

Photo by Sabrina Byrnes

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