

ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Much has been heard and read on the proposed reforms recommended by the Ontario Economics Council. A recent release follows;

1. The concept of regional government should be expanded to include consideration of the reform of the total system of government in Ontario. This will require the examination of the organization and operation of the provincial services as well as the municipal system. The objective of this reform should be government which is understandable to the electorate, which is capable of providing services as efficiently as possible and which can be controlled by the democratic process.
2. In the determination of the transfer of functions and revenues to regional government from either the existing municipalities or the provincial government the operating principle should be that, in so far as possible, the elector is able to assign responsibility for provision of services to a specific level of government and that he is capable of provision of services to a specific level of government and that he is capable of understanding the real cost of each service as well as the direct and indirect benefits received. Such a pricing of public services is a prerequisite to the assignment of priorities for public expenditure.
3. Prior to the introduction of regional government in any area, studies should be undertaken to provide the elector with information on the current costs of providing public services. These studies should also indicate the savings that might be effected by the transfer of responsibility to a regional government, and the additional costs that might result from any improvements or expansions of services within specific areas of the region.
4. Every effort should be made to ensure that regional governments have a sufficient tax base to provide a minimum level of services without undue reliance on conditional or unconditional grants. The province must, however, maintain sufficient tax revenues to provide for its own operation and for the provision of "equalization grants" to the regional governments.
5. Consideration should be given to the possibility of codifying the division of responsibilities between the province and the regional governments in a single document as one method of introducing structural reform in government. This could have the added potential benefit of helping to rationalize views on the appropriate sphere of activity of

the provincial government which, in turn, could serve as a basis for discussions at the federal-provincial level.

Included with the release was a booklet entitled Government Reform in Ontario. This is a comprehensive report with detailed analysis as it affects municipal government. The book is available in the News Office and we urge those interested in future developments at the municipal level to read it.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| HORIZONTAL | 36. Entertain | 51. Greek letter | 9. A medley |
| 1. Headwear | 37. Volcano on Martinique | VERTICAL | 10. Rural sight |
| 4. Cicatrix | 40. Seed covering | 1. Faucet | 11. A condiment |
| 8. Scottish arctic navigator | 41. An astringent | 2. Biblical king | 16. Carry |
| 12. An enzyme | 42. Hygienic | 3. Communications | 19. English gun |
| 13. European shark | 46. Shrewd | 4. Fence steps | 20. Culture medium |
| 14. A noun suffix | 47. Great Lake | 5. Italian lake | 21. Donated |
| 15. Recreations | 48. Golf mound | 6. Mimic | 22. Proportion |
| 17. Window part | 49. Beverages | 7. Thing, in law | 23. English school |
| 18. Perform alone | 50. High | 8. Thin slice | 25. A fruit |
| 19. To let fly | | | 26. Feign |
| 20. Size of type | | | 27. Noted inventor |
| 22. Network | | | 28. Alaska city |
| 24. A challenge | | | 30. To corner |
| 25. New Jersey city | | | 33. Topics |
| 29. Salutation | | | 34. Discharge |
| 30. River in Montana | | | 36. A satellite of Uranus |
| 31. Japanese statesman | | | 37. Rodent |
| 32. To hold back | | | 38. Jewish month |
| 34. An Old Testament people | | | 39. Stringed instrument |
| 35. Leander loved her | | | 40. Dye indigo |
| | | | 42. Matched group |
| | | | 43. Macaw |
| | | | 44. Soak flax |
| | | | 45. An affirmative |

Last Week's Answer

P	A	C	A	S	C	A	R	C	A	R		
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