

MIRANET: Mississauga Residents' Associations Network

STATEMENT

On Oct. 1, 2008, representatives from Ratepayers' and Residents' Associations throughout Mississauga met for the inaugural meeting of MIRANET. This new organization has been conceived and designed by representatives of ratepayer groups from across the City who have been exploring the concept since March 2008. This initial collaboration has resulted in development of a Network model which relies on distributed leadership via subcommittees established for issues of City-wide concern and importance.

The intention of MIRANET is to work in a positive and constructive manner with the City and other levels of government (regional, provincial and federal) to promote the interests of Mississauga citizens.

With a **Vision** that 'Every citizen has the opportunity to be informed and engaged in civic matters that affect them', MIRANET has been established to:

- Forge effective working relationships with various levels of government
- Share information with residents' associations, citizens, and governments
- Foster and encourage the development of forums for community engagement (e.g. support the establishment of new residents' associations)
- Share and benchmark best practices

Membership is open to all residents' associations formally registered with the City. MIRANET will operate through a Steering Committee composed of a representative from each participating residents' association.

MIRANET is non-partisan and does not endorse any specific candidate seeking public office, nor any political party. When there is consensus among the member groups on a significant issue, MIRANET may decide to endorse and promote a specific position.

Statements of MIRANET's position on issues will be communicated by designated spokespersons. The Cities Now! Campaign initiated by Mayor Hazel McCallion and the City of Mississauga is the first issue that MIRANET has undertaken, and a subcommittee is actively working with City Manager Janice Baker to identify how citizens may best support the campaign for long-term, sustainable municipal infrastructure funding.

A website is under development: www.MIRANET.ca will be a resource for all Mississauga residents' groups and citizens.

Initial contact with MIRANET will be through the Secretary who will direct inquiries to the appropriate MIRANET spokesperson. For further information, contact:

Dorothy Tomiuk, MIRANET Secretary
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October 7, 2008