

The N.E.W. Plan for restructuring Prince Edward County Council [Version 5]

[Abstract, 243 words]

The County has been wrestling with Council size (15 Councillors) for several years. Some citizens and Councillors want fewer Councillors; others favour the status quo. Council has now asked for advice from a Citizens Assembly, which may recommend a smaller Council.

Downsizing of Council could require merger of, or boundary changes to, some of the County's ten Historic Wards, which are an important part of the County's heritage. Fortunately, there is a restructuring plan – the N.E.W. Plan – that preserves the ten Historic Wards unchanged and accommodates anywhere from 6 to 15 Councillors in total.

The N.E.W. Plan creates three Electoral Wards that overlay the 10 Historic Wards, one for the 2 Historic Wards to the north of the County, one for the 4 to the east, and one for the 4 to the west.

Under this Plan, Council chooses the number of Councillors per Electoral Ward -- as few as 2 each (6 Councillors in total) or as many as 5 each (15 in total). Each Councillor represents all residents of his/her Electoral Ward.

In addition to preserving the ten Historic Wards, the N.E.W. Plan greatly improves Councillor representation: equitable rep. by pop., a choice of Councillor to contact and a team of Councillors for each area of the County.

The N.E.W. Plan offers a simple, inexpensive and permanent means of resolving an issue that has persisted for years, while achieving important benefits for the future.

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