

Honourable Mayor Brocanier and Members of Council  
Town of Cobourg Municipal Offices  
Victoria Hall  
55 King Street West  
Cobourg, ON  
K9A 2M2

May 12, 2016

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council,

**Filling Theresa Rickerby's Vacancy**

The Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA) is writing you in regards to filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Theresa Rickerby.

As you are aware, under the Municipal Act, there are two choices for filling her vacancy. Either Council can appoint a person who has consented to accept the office if appointed or a by-election can be held.

The CTA is calling on Town Council to hold a by-election rather than appoint a replacement.

Our position is based on the principle of transparency and democracy. With more than two-thirds of this Council's term still remaining, it is fitting that voters and not Council make the decision on who should represent them.

While the CTA acknowledges that appointing a replacement would be cheaper, the community's voice must take precedence. We polled our supporters on the issue and 93% of respondents were in favour of a by-election.

Based on the 2014 election, the cost works out to \$3.48 per eligible voter, less than the price of a Big Mac and a small price to pay for democracy.

The CTA's position is also based on the issue of legitimacy. In order to have credibility in the eyes of voters, the decision to fill the vacancy should not be left to a backroom selection process where the appointed person would be indebted to a few individuals.

The City of Toronto has called a by-election to fill Rob Ford's vacancy and Cobourg should be no different.

We urge you on behalf of Cobourg voters to put democracy first and to hold a by-election to replace Theresa Rickerby.

Sincerely,

Dennis Nabieszko  
Secretary  
Cobourg Taxpayers Association