

SPADINA-YORK SUBWAY

Toronto takes a pass

The **City of Toronto** has done more than pull the plug on \$30 million in its Spadina-York subway trust account (a move to help fill its operating budget deficit). Toronto council has taken a pass, for now, on a request from the **City of Vaughan** to appoint two members of council to its Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee.



The move has irked Toronto's former representative on the committee, Councillor **Karen Stintz**, who tabled a notice of motion at this week's council accusing the striking committee's chair, deputy mayor **Joe Pantalone**, of confidentially forgoing Toronto's involvement in the subway committee. The notice failed to win the necessary two-thirds support to table the motion, which means it goes to the next meeting of the executive committee.

"There are a number of decisions still left to be made with respect to the subway expansion, and therefore it is critical that Toronto continue to participate on this committee," Stintz said.

"Furthermore, the decision whether or not the city should participate on this committee should be made by city council in a public forum, not by the chair of the striking committee in private."

Pantalone, however, told *NRU* that the accusation is unwarranted and the decision not to appoint a member at this time is only temporary until the city re-evaluates the role of the committee, which was formed in 2004 to lobby the province for funds for the long-awaited subway.

“We are in the process of seeking more information from the City of Vaughan as to the purpose of the committee now that we have achieved the main goal of the committee,” Pantalone said. “Once we receive that information, we will re-evaluate our role.”

The Spadina–York Subway Extension Committee, made up of two council members from each of Vaughan, Toronto and **York Region** council and one member from **York University**, was created for the purpose of discussing, at the political level, the Spadina Subway extension to Vaughan’s corporate centre to assist with its implementation. The membership has since expanded to include the **City of Barrie, County of Simcoe, GO Transit** and other groups.

In February, Vaughan requested Toronto’s continued participation on the committee. Although Toronto’s clerk began the process of soliciting interest in the committee from city councillors, the selection process was abruptly and quietly ended, says Stintz, who has expressed interest in continuing to participate. Stintz’s motion requested the item be put back on the agenda of the next striking committee meeting, which is not expected until June.

Current membership includes Regional Councillor **Mario Ferri** and Councillor **Sandra Yeung Racco** (Vaughan), **Richard Forward** (Barrie), **Rick Newlove** (Simcoe), **Christopher Wong** (York University), **Andy Manahan (Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario)**, **Tony Genco (Parc Downsview Park)**, **Mike Yorke (Central Ontario Regional Council Local 27)**, **Mary-Frances Turner (York Region Rapid Transit)**, **Brian Shifman (Smart Commute)** and **Bill Jenkins (GO Transit)**.