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## NEWS LOCAL

### Public views sought for council composition

By Elaine Della-Mattia, Sault Star

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A committee charged with examining the composition of city council is looking for public input.

It wants to know what residents think about the city's geographical division and current council composition.

Currently, the city is divided into six wards with two councillors representing each ward.

Input can be provided through an online survey, due before month end.

The brief survey asks the participant what ward he/she lives in, whether they've had occasion to contact a councillor with an issue and if so how many times. It questions whether there are concerns about changing the size of the ward. It also asks whether attempts have been made to contact city staff or others, and if so, in what form was that contact made.

The survey can be accessed at [surveymonkey.com/r/ssmcouncilreview](http://surveymonkey.com/r/ssmcouncilreview).

Three public open houses will also be held to hear the views of residents.

The open houses will be held on Wed. Nov. 9 at the Northern Community Centre (Essar Room) from 7 to 8 p.m., on Mon. Nov. 14 at the Civ Centre (Russ Ramsay Room) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Tues. Nov. 22 at the John Rhodes Community Centre (upstairs classroom) from 7 to 8 p.m.

In June, the committee was struck earlier as a result of a unanimous resolution passed by council .

It will also report on what foreseeable consequences, either positive or negative, would result from a composition or geographic boundary change.

The existing 12 councillor and one mayor system has been in place since 1965 when the townships of Korah and Tarentorus were amalgamated.

The existing system sees two councillors elected in each of six wards and the mayor elected at large.

The last review of council's composition was in 2002.


The review committee includes Mayor Christian Provenzano, Ward 3 Coun. Matthew Shoemaker and Ward 2 councillors Susan Myers and Sandra Hollingsworth.

The city clerks department is utilized as a resource to the committee.

It's expected that the city council review committee will make recommendations to council regarding its future composition and wards. A full debate will be held by council prior to any decision being made.

Any changes that occur as a result of the review will come into effect for the October 2018 municipal election.


More information on the issue can be found on the city's website at saultsternarie.ca/CouncilReview .



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