



23 February 2012

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor and Council

Fr: Joanne L. McMillin, City Clerk

Re: Proposed Amendment to Youth Council Terms of Reference

Recommendation:

That Council gives three readings to a by-law to authorize a revised Terms of Reference for the City of Kenora Youth Council to reflect a change in the voting make-up of the Members and to amend any other applicable sections that may be affected by such change; and further

That By-law Number 121-2011 be and is hereby repealed.

Background:

Following the initial meeting of the newly appointed Youth Council with City Administration, it was the general consensus of the Youth Council that the position of Youth Clerk would be more palatable and interesting to serve as if the position could be changed from non-voting to a voting position. While this is not the 'norm' for regular Council, it is being suggested that the position be identified as a 'Youth Clerk Councillor' so the position would in fact be an additional Councillor with a vote but would remain responsible to carry out the required duties in wearing the Clerk's hat.

This change would result in there being an even number of Members on the Youth Council and they were advised that with an 8 Member Council rather than 7 Members there could easily and often be split votes and these of course would be lost if tied 4-4. Further, the terms would have to reflect the correct number required for quorum from the current four to five as a result of this change. As an aside, I have encouraged the Youth Council to consider creating a Procedural Manual which would reflect these types of items.

I believe the suggested change is a good option for all Members of the Youth Council to have a vote and the intent of the 'Council focus' is still intact; it simply allows all of them to have that voice which they have been quite passionate about throughout the process to-date.

Budget:

N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

N/A