

Municipal Governments and Councils





Branches of Municipal Government

There are two branches of the Municipal Government.

The **Legislative** and the **Executive** branches

Yes, this should look pretty similar...

Municipal Government structure

A municipal elected representative is called a **councillor** or **alderman**.

The leader of the government is called a **mayor** or **reeve**.

The size of the council differs from city to town.

Councillors debate and pass legislation in the **Council Chambers**
(city hall/municipal office).

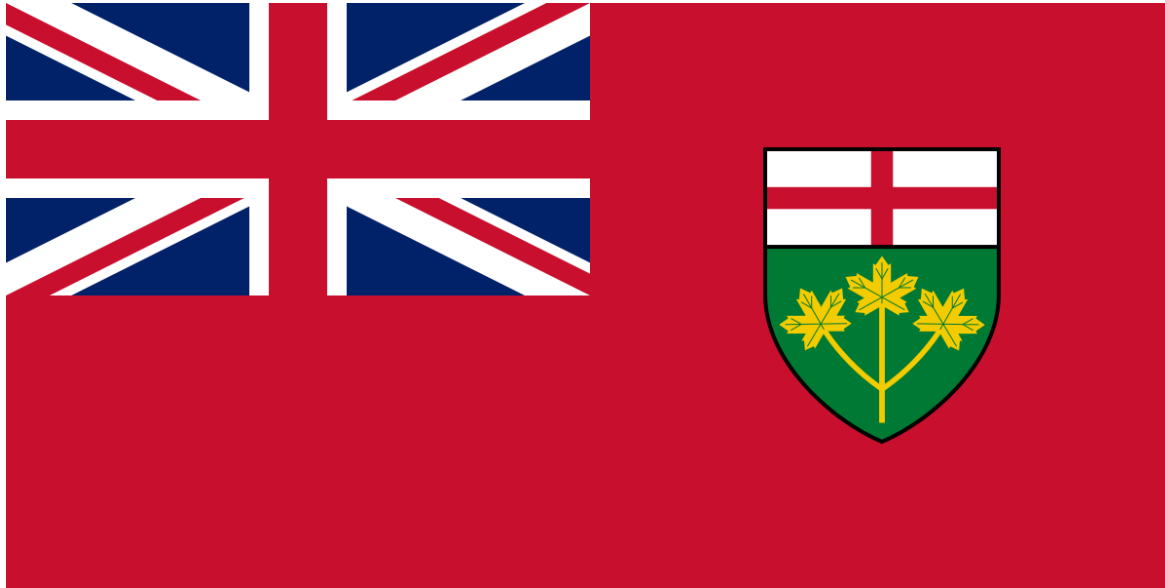




Ontario Municipalities

Ontario is separated into **444** different communities called municipalities.

A municipality can be called a **city, town, village, township, county** or **region**.



Greater Toronto Area



Key Features of Municipalities

Municipalities share several main features:

- 1) A defined geographic area
- 2) The power to tax
- 3) An elected council



Municipal Powers & Responsibilities

Municipalities are given their powers and responsibilities by the provincial government.

Examples are: Roads and sidewalks, transportation systems/public transit, social housing, waste removal, community centres, and water and sewage.



The Power to Raise Taxes

Municipalities use **Property taxes** to generate revenue.

Homeowners pay a tax based on home value every year.

This money is used to pay for services that benefit the community such as police and the building and maintenance of roads, sidewalks and parks.

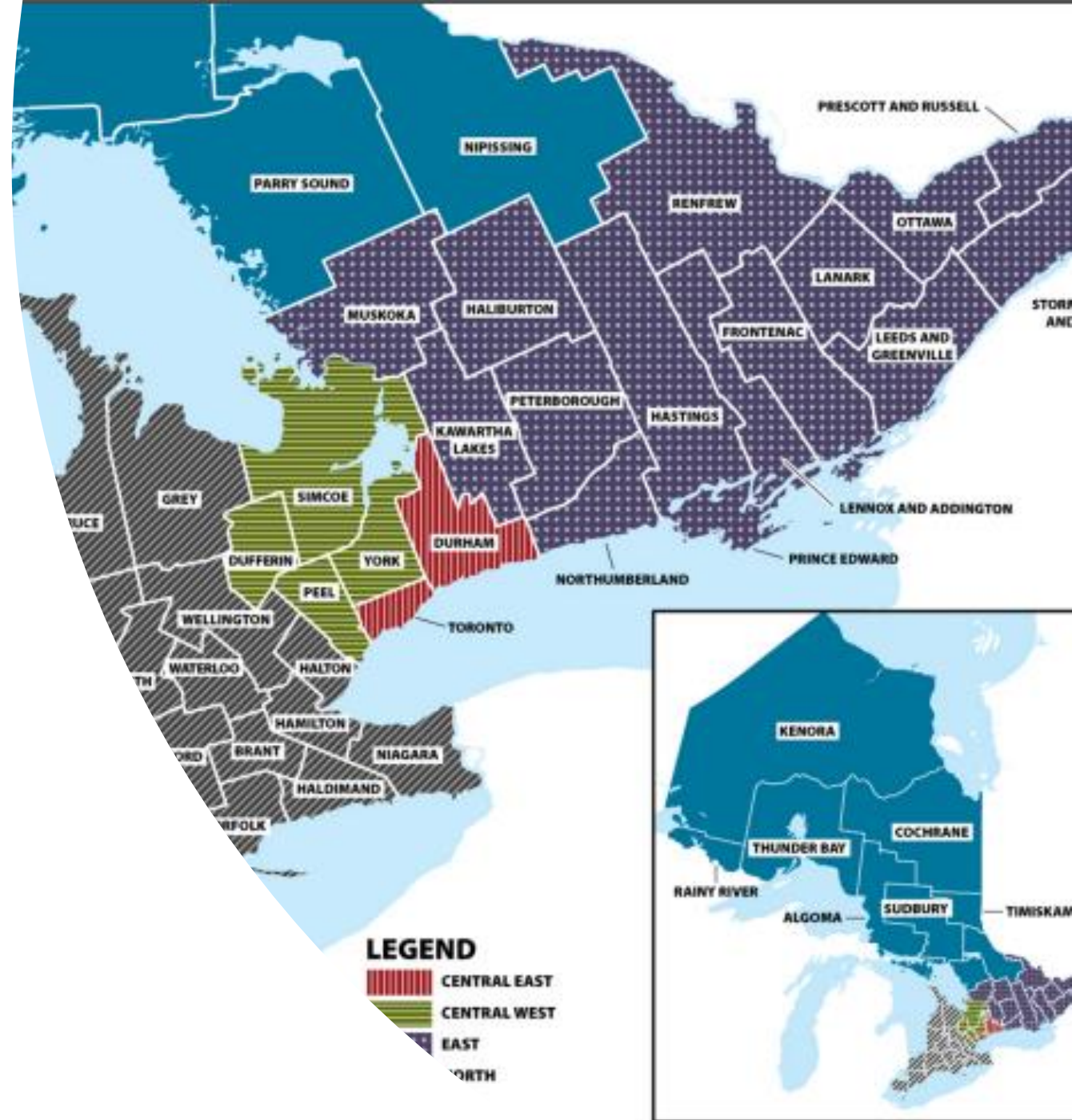


Municipal Branches – Single-Tier or Two- Tier

Municipalities in Ontario are either part of a single-tier or two-tier system.

A **single-tier** municipality has one government and local council and it operates on its own.

A **two-tier** system involve two layers of government and two councils. (Like York Region, Essex County or Lanark County)



Toronto's City Hall

The current City Hall is the 4th in the city's history is at Nathan Phillips Square.

It has unique architecture, even being featured in action films like Resident Evil and Star Trek: The Next Generation.



Toronto's City Council and Mayor

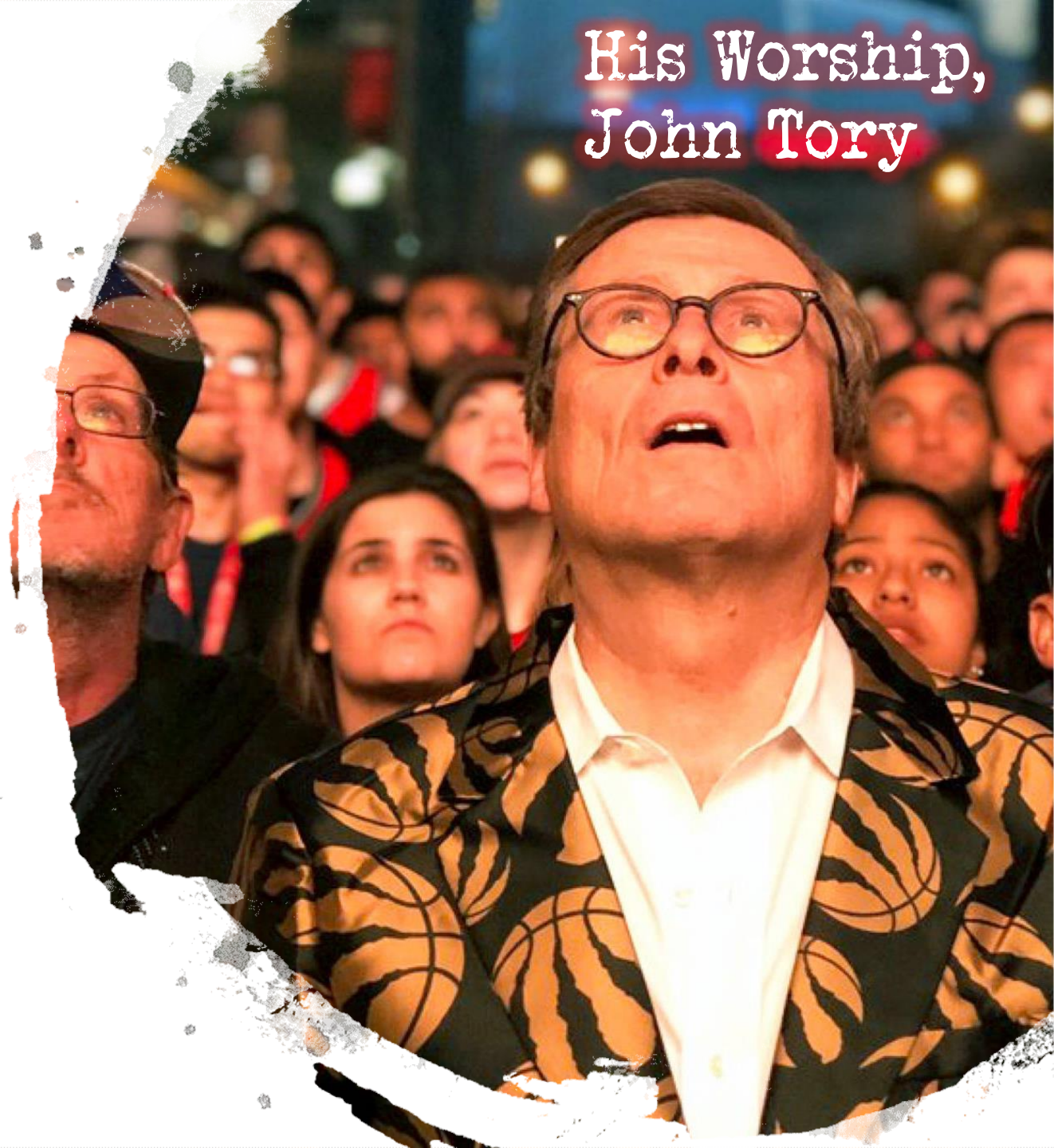
Toronto's City Council is made up of the **mayor**, who is elected city-wide and 25 councillors who are elected in each ward across the city.

The mayor provides leadership to City Council and:

represents Toronto across Canada and around the world

works with different levels of government

His Worship,
John Tory



How does City Council Work?



City Councillors:

- attend City Council and committee meetings
- sit on the boards of City agencies and corporations
- propose changes to the decisions City Council makes
- make motions for actions or raise awareness of issues
- hold/attend community meetings to get public input
- host or get involved in community events
- help people access City services