

# City axes 3 top jobs

City clerk leaving voluntarily, two others given the boot in major civic shakeup

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There's been another shakeup at City Hall — and it's not over yet.

The city's senior management team has been reorganized and three long-time employees are out of a job.

Richard Hewitt, deputy manager of public works, and Stephen Finnamore, executive director of business transformation services, were laid off yesterday. City clerk Pierre Page, who has been

with the city for 30 years, will leave his post voluntarily Nov. 30.

In addition to his role as city solicitor, Rick O'Connor will be the new city clerk. Steve Kanellakos, deputy manager for community and protective services, will become deputy manager of city operations. Nancy Schepers will remain deputy manager of transit, planning and the environment, but will add "infrastructure services and community sustainability" to her deputy manager's title.

After two years, taxpayers will save up to \$600,000 annually. The city will pay a combined total of about \$900,000 in severance.

## Closed-door meeting

City manager Kent Kirkpatrick briefed city councillors about the changes for almost four hours during a closed-door meeting yesterday.

With Kanellakos and Schepers now looking after much of the day-to-day operations, Kirkpatrick said he will focus on high-level discussions with senior governments to secure

more funding and meeting his three-year goal of finding \$100 million in savings.

"We have already made a very good start and I believe this change is what is needed for us to be successful over the next two years," Kirkpatrick said.

There is also a hiring freeze until next fall.

Mayor Larry O'Brien said with the American economy imploding, an "economic tsunami" is on the way and folding four departments into two simplifies management and saves money.

"Fewer managers means more effective communications at the city, which means the better the service delivery will be to the citizens of Ottawa," O'Brien said.

Page isn't bitter about his departure.

"The city has to continue to be looking at efficiencies and I've been ... discussing how to make the city clerk's office more efficient," he said.

Council was told middle-management positions will be restructured next.

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