

Councillor fully supports term limits

(This letter from Orléans Coun. Bob Monette is in response to letter written from a resident to the Ottawa Citizen. It was also made available to the EMC)

In his letter to the editor, Jean-François Claude states that he would support not only term limits but also party politics for municipal councillors. I fully agree that a shake up is needed at my level of government. I continually get comments from the public about the perceived ineffectuality of

council and it is discouraging. I have been very vocal about the fact that a two term limits should be instated and that we should re-divide up the wards to include 4 councillors who would run at large across the city.

For those who have sat around the council table for more than 8 years there is a feeling from the old guard of council of having "been there, done that". I know that after two full terms I would be bored with the same job. I do respect the perspective

that the more experienced councillors bring to the table but I feel that new blood should be injected into council as well.

One of the biggest complaints I get is that city councillors focus too much of their attention on ward specific issues, and are not concerned with citywide issues enough. During our last governance review I proposed a system, which would have two tiers so to speak. The city would be divided up into larger wards and councillors could run within those wards con-

centrating on ward specific issues and the city would then also be divided up into 4 areas which would focus on city wide issues such as mass transit, budget, and large infrastructure projects.

When I brought up these two very points and suggestions, feed back from around the council table was not supportive, however should legislation come down from above regarding term limits or councillors running at large, I would continue to be supportive these notions.

*Bob Monette
City Councillor, Orléans*

