

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW

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I don't believe I can support the initiatives proposed by WALGA if they can result in even the slightest erosion of local government powers, as it appears to be the case.

I lived in Switzerland, arguably the soundest democracy in the world, and what makes it so robust is that it is all based on the input from local councils and local people. There is no way administration of Canton or Federal administration would ever attempt to run local issues. It is the other way around and famous Swiss referendums are sacrosanct for a good reason.

If political parties are allowed to infiltrate or influence the local government, that's the end of the genuine concept of democracy (Greek demos=people and kratein=govern), democracy being direct governance by people, an example being the annual electors meetings. The annual electors meeting are true remnant of DIRECT DEMOCRACY, and as such should be absolutely preserved and honoured, not apparently discouraged or even abolished by proposed measures.

It would appear that WALGA, with possibly best intentions, is inclined to turn the principle of governance by people to governance of the people.

That's another issue I'd take with misconception of delegating authority by electing representatives: demos, i.e. people, elect members among themselves to lead upon initiatives raised by the people (=electorate), not to rule the people (=electorate) by their own initiatives. This is the system of REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. When elected members attempt to rule the people who elected them, that's the very opposite of democracy, and it leads to a dictate to the people rather than execution of powers people vested in the elected members. Usually, when people realise this is happening there's discontent to start with, or even uprisings and revolutions.

While I understand that younger generation would not have had philosophy, logic, didactics and other classic disciplines and subjects as their required curriculum, the dismissal of their elder peers is not only rude (and legally questionable as discrimination by age), but they may be missing on the wisdom that comes with different educational, cultural, generational backgrounds, as well as life based experiences that are only in front of them. As I like to say to my niece: she hasn't been 82 yet, and her grandmother was 28. Who would you expect to be wiser?

I would love to see a proper discussion based on valid arguments and counter-arguments rather than exertion of power over each other, or even worse the toxic and impersonal ways of blogging and online opinions mainly hurling abuse and derogatory dismissal of

anything slightly opposing own opinion. Local Government is the foundation of our system of democracy. Erode it, and the edifice above it will fall apart, and sink like Venice is sinking with its rotting foundations. There is no other way about it.

Mostly, I am puzzled why would any authority with genuine democratic inclinations want to erode Local Government powers, which are pillars of our democratic system?