

## **Durham cancels incinerator speaking plan**

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Keith Gilligan

DURHAM -- A proposal to require all delegations who want to speak about Durham's incinerator start off at the works committee has been defeated.

Regional council on Wednesday nixed the idea, with a majority of councillors feeling people shouldn't have to start off with the works committee.

Pickering Councillor Jennifer O'Connell said if a delegation was speaking before the finance committee about an issue that wasn't financial, they could be stopped and redirected to the appropriate committee.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," she added.

Oshawa Councillor Nancy Diamond agreed, saying democracy isn't always efficient, but "it's the way we work. It's a disservice to the people on the most complex issue we'll deal with."

Whitby Councillor and finance committee chairman Don Mitchell said the issue came about at the last finance committee meeting, when one delegation wanted to speak about the Race Against Drugs Durham event, another spoke on councillors raising money by dieting and three or four spoke on the incinerator.

"Nobody is obstructing anyone from speaking. Let's have one body in charge. Rationalizing the process is all this motion is about," Coun. Mitchell said.

Oshawa Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri said works was the appropriate place, as those who know about the project are there.

"Folks don't want to be treated like a ping-pong ball" being shuffled from one committee to another, he said. Regional Chairman Roger Anderson said, "There's a committee in charge of a file and that committee has carriage of it. There was no reason for some of those people to be at finance."

Oshawa Councillor and works committee chairman Nester Pidwerbecki questioned whether the works committee would be able to handle the extra delegations. The works committee meets every third Wednesday in the morning. On the same days, the transit executive committee meets in the afternoon.

"There's a problem with scheduling. It just won't work," Coun. Pidwerbecki stated.