

Aug. 16-91 MP

Parsons to head international transit group

Lou Parsons is expected to be named the chairman of the huge American Public Transit Association when it meets in Toronto this fall.

At a recent meeting in Chicago, Parsons' name was put forward by the nominating committee for the post as chairman of the international transit group, which represents more than 1,000 mass transit systems and related businesses across the continent.

"This is a challenging time for transit," Parsons said in a prepared statement, "with budgets strained and ridership curtailed by a faltering economy. There is tremendous environmental pressure to improve transit services," added the long-time Mississauga resident.

The former chairman of the Region of Peel was a founding member of GO Transit when it became an Ontario crown agency in 1974. He served as GO's chairman until 1979, when he resigned from politics to run his local real estate business. In August 1980, Parsons was appointed chairman of GO, a position he has held ever since under Conservative, Liberal, and NDP governments.

Parsons is also a former town of Mississauga councillor and deputy-reeve, and was the youngest-ever warden of Peel County. If his nomination is confirmed, Parsons will become the first Canadian to head the American Public Transit Association.

Paul Big...



LOU PARSONS

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