

## **DR. ROBERT J. WILLIAMS – BIOGRAPHY**

**March 16, 2016**

Dr. Robert J. Williams is an independent consultant who has become a leading Ontario authority in the area of municipal electoral systems since his early retirement at the end of 2006 from the Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo, where he had been a faculty member since 1971. His research and teaching interests included municipal government, federal and provincial politics and electoral systems. He holds a B.A. and M.A. from McMaster University and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Toronto.

Before retirement Dr. Williams participated in electoral boundary reviews in a number of communities in Ontario; this included serving on citizen and council-based committees and assisting staff teams, as well as appearing as an expert witness before the Ontario Municipal Board in cases dealing with electoral arrangements.

Since retirement, Dr. Williams has been responsible (alone or in partnership with Watson and Associates) for designing and evaluating electoral systems in close to twenty Ontario municipalities including the determination of an appropriate size for the municipal council and the boundaries for wards. He also served in an advisory capacity to the Clerks of other Ontario municipalities on electoral boundary reviews and served as an expert witness at five OMB hearings. Dr. Williams is presently conducting ward boundary reviews with Watson and Associates for the City of Hamilton, the Town of Milton and Severn Township.

In 2011 the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board retained him to provide recommendations on the optimal number of councillors for each of Halifax and Cape Breton Regional Councils.

Dr. Williams is also serving as Municipal Integrity Commissioner for the Township of Wilmot and the Town of Erin and was appointed to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Municipal Elections Compliance Audit Committee in 2006, 2010 and 2014.