



TORONTO AND REGION 2005 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS representatives of the City of Toronto, the Government of Ontario, and the Government of Canada, out of concern for the adverse risks that air pollution and climate change pose to public health and the local economy, gathered in Toronto on June 21, 2000 and together with representatives of municipal governments in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), gathered again on the occasions of the annual Smog Summits to sign Inter-governmental Declarations on Clean Air;

AND WHEREAS the GTA Clean Air Council has been working to follow up on key issues raised at previous Summits, to convene ongoing annual Summits, to explore opportunities for joint initiatives between annual Summits, and to liaise with other municipalities across Canada to share best practices information on smog reduction;

AND WHEREAS annual Smog Summits are a part of the ongoing efforts of our respective governments to address the air pollution problem;

AND WHEREAS progress to date on the path toward cleaner air, in the form of individual and joint announcements made by GTA Clean Air Council member governments at previous Smog Summits, is recorded in the GTA Clean Air Council's publication entitled Governments' Actions on Clean Air in the GTA;

AND WHEREAS this Smog Summit marks the sixth annual Smog Summit, with much having been accomplished, and much remaining to be done;

AND WHEREAS we, the representatives of the City of Toronto, local and regional municipal governments in the GTA, the Government of Ontario, and the Government of Canada, have gathered in Toronto on June 8, 2005 on the occasion of the sixth Smog Summit;

THANKING Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Toronto Hydro Corporation, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, and the City of Toronto for providing financial support for the Summit; and

THANKING the corporations, non-governmental organizations and members of the public who assisted in planning the Summit, and thanking the Clean Air Partnership and the City of Toronto for organizing the Summit; and

THANKING the member jurisdictions for providing financial and in-kind support for the GTA Clean Air Council work program and assistance in developing the Toronto and Region 2005 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air.

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WE DO HEREBY DECLARE:

ARTICLE 1 – STATEMENT OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING

- 1.1 Scientists and physicians have linked air pollution to premature deaths, illnesses and hospitalization each year in major Canadian cities, including the GTA. Even a small increase in air pollution increases health impacts, particularly in those who are vulnerable and sensitive to air pollution. Air pollution-related illnesses adversely impact the local economy as well as our health.
- 1.2 Smog and climate change are two atmospheric problems sharing common sources. Fossil-fuel combustion is a key contributor to air pollution, producing smog precursors and greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.3 On February 16, 2005 the Kyoto Protocol came into force in Canada.
- 1.4 Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are often associated with reductions of other atmospheric emissions that contribute to smog and its associated health, economic and ecosystem effects. In some cases, a co-benefit of reducing smog precursors is to reduce some greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.5 A number of sources are responsible for a large proportion of the emissions of major air pollutants in the GTA. The major air pollutants include nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur oxides (SO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), inhalable particulate matter (PM₁₀), respirable particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and carbon monoxide (CO). The primary sources of these pollutants are:
 - industrial activity,
 - electric power generation,
 - on-road and off-road use of diesel fuel and gasoline,
 - residential fuel and fuel wood combustion, and
 - surface coating and solvent applications.
- 1.6 Transportation is a major source of most air contaminants. In Ontario, the transportation sector is responsible for 20 per cent of smog-causing particulate matter, 85 per cent of carbon monoxide emissions, 29 per cent of VOCs and 63 per cent of NO_x. Transportation is also responsible for 30 per cent of Ontario's carbon dioxide emissions, which trap heat and contribute to climate change.
- 1.7 Addressing key sources of major air pollutants requires collaboration of all orders of government.

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ARTICLE 2 – SIGNATORIES TO THE 2005 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR

Government of Canada

Province of Ontario

Ajax, Town of
Brampton, City of
Burlington, City of
Caledon, Town of
Clarington, Municipality of
Durham, Region of
Halton, Region of
King, Township of

Markham, Town of
Mississauga, City of
Newmarket, Town of
Oakville, Town of
Oshawa, City of
Peel, Region of
Pickering, City of
Richmond Hill, Town of
Toronto, City of
Vaughan, City of
Whitby, Town of
York, Region of

ARTICLE 3 – CALL FOR GTA CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ACTION

In view of the long-term nature of the air quality problem in the airshed that includes the Greater Toronto Area, the GTA Clean Air Council agrees to continue the ongoing work being undertaken on commitments made in Inter-governmental Declarations signed at previous Smog Summits.

The GTA Clean Air Council commits to act in concert to address smog and greenhouse gases, to share information and, where possible, to share resources and undertake appropriate research, studies, workshops and actions.

- 3.1 Recognizing the role of emissions from the transportation sector on GTA air quality and the transportation and health theme of the 2005 Smog Summit:
 - 3.1.1 Collaborate with the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air, the One-Tonne Challenge, and the Smart Commute Initiative for the GTA and Hamilton programs to strengthen and support existing efforts to engage residents in energy conservation activities and include these campaigns in members' ongoing energy conservation strategies.
- 3.2 Recognizing the work of the GTA Clean Air Council on reducing greenhouse gas and smog precursor emissions and supporting Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and the Government of Canada's One Tonne Challenge, work with the federal and provincial governments to build local capacity by:
 - 3.2.1 Building on earlier clean air planning projects to develop a decision-matrix that assists municipalities in prioritizing emission reduction options.
 - 3.2.2 Exploring opportunities to establish a GTA Atmospheric Fund that would apply the Toronto Atmospheric Fund model across the entire GTA.
- 3.3 Promote the expansion of, and seek funding for, initiatives that reduce electricity usage when demand threatens to overwhelm supply in public and private sector buildings in

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the GTA, including a review of such programs as Milton Hydro's Energy Drill Program™.

- 3.4 Work with Government of Canada's "Burn it Smart!" to explore the applicability in the GTA of a municipal by-law for regulating wood burning appliances using the "Model Municipal By-law For Regulating Woodburning Appliances" developed by the Inter-Governmental Working Group on Residential Wood Combustion.
- 3.5 Collaborate with, and actively support, the federal government's development of an Air Quality Index (AQI) that reflects the combined health effects of simultaneous exposure to key air pollutants.
- 3.6 Explore the benefits of hosting a cross-border Smog Summit to engage in trans-boundary air quality discussions and identify issues and strategies with municipal, provincial/state and federal representatives in the Great Lakes Basin Region.