



TORONTO AND REGION 2006 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 seventh annual Smog Summit, with much having been accomplished, and much remaining to be done;

AND WHEREAS we, the representatives of the local and regional municipal governments in the GTA, the Government of Ontario, and the Government of Canada, have gathered in Toronto on June 7, 2006 on the occasion of the seventh Smog Summit;

THANKING Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, the City of Toronto, Toronto Hydro Corporation, Golder Associates, Warren's Waterless Printing, and Bullfrog Power for providing financial support for the Summit;

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 2006 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air.

WE DO HEREBY DECLARE:

ARTICLE 1 – STATEMENT OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING

- 1.1 Scientists and physicians have linked air pollution to premature deaths, hospitalizations, increases in chronic heart and lung diseases including lung cancer, and acute respiratory diseases at air pollution levels that are commonly experienced in Canadian cities, including the GTA. Even a small increase in air pollution increases health impacts, particularly among those who are vulnerable and sensitive to air pollution such as young children, the elderly and those with pre-existing diseases. 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 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.
- 1.4 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 dioxide (SO₂), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and carbon monoxide (CO). The primary sources of these pollutants are:
 - On-road vehicles and off-road equipment that use diesel and gasoline;
 - Residential and commercial use of oil, natural gas and wood;
 - The generation of electricity in coal-fired power plants;
 - Industrial facilities; and
 - Commercial use of solvents and surface coatings such as paints.
- 1.5 Transportation is a major source of the emissions that contribute to both air pollution and climate change and is responsible, according to 2003 Environment Canada data, for about 17% of PM_{2.5}, 14% of SO₂, 69% of NO_x, 21% of VOCs, 80% of CO and 30% of carbon dioxide emissions within the area represented on the GTA Clean Air Council.
- 1.6 Addressing key sources of major air pollutants requires collaboration between all orders of government. By sharing the best practices from jurisdictions across southern Ontario and on both sides of the border, we can support one another in achieving improvements in air quality at a local and regional level for the benefit of all.

ARTICLE 2 – SIGNATORIES TO THE 2006 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.

Furthermore, the GTA Clean Air Council commits to the following:

- 3.1 Explore approaches that can be adopted to improve air quality for the benefit of all, through sharing best practices from jurisdictions across southern Ontario and on both sides of the border;
- 3.2 Explore and analyze a range of approaches, including the development of a possible Heat Health Alert strategy and guideline, to assist municipalities in the region to address smog, extreme heat and health impacts;
- 3.3 Promote renewable energy in and around the GTA by identifying the opportunities, barriers, and activities needed to facilitate the development of municipal renewable energy projects;
- 3.4 Continue to explore the benefits of the proposed Greater Toronto Atmospheric Fund, designed to facilitate potential reductions in overall electricity use in the GTA, in part through a program that promotes energy efficient lighting in the municipal sector across the region;
- 3.5 Promote low-cost energy efficiency options, such as those in Natural Resources Canada's programs for commercial buildings and recreational facilities, through the

organization of workshops and/or pilot projects, in partnership with the federal government;

- 3.6 Review and assess the actions being taken by municipal partners in the GTA-CAC to reduce emissions associated with off-road equipment and heavy-duty vehicles in the corporate fleets as another step towards the greening of municipal fleets; and
- 3.7 Identify and document green buildings programs, policies and standards under development by jurisdictions within and beyond the GTA.