

## Fundraising

Member and associate members of the GTA-CAC provide funding, based on an agreed upon formula to support the work of the Council. The substantive joint initiatives undertaken by the Council require greater funding than that provided by member jurisdictions and for such initiatives, the Clean Air Partnership seeks other funding sources. The funds raised from partners and outside sources support meetings, workshops, research, the preparation of an annual Inter-governmental Declaration and the attendant documentation.

## Communications

Communications strategies for GTA-CAC products and projects are currently developed by ad-hoc working groups. CAP takes the lead on the coordination and implementation of the communications strategies.

## Focus: The way forward

The GTA-CAC recognizes that GTA communities share common air quality issues and that solutions require collaboration. The Council has an interest in building on existing efforts, and applying locally the lessons learned from experiences elsewhere to “raise the bar” on local smog reduction and air quality improvement.

Therefore, in moving forward the GTA-CAC will focus on:

- building capacity in member organizations to take action and coordinate efforts on smog reduction and cleaner air;
- continuing to expand strategic partnerships with existing initiatives and organizations;
- developing mechanisms to monitor progress and demonstrate concrete results;
- developing communications strategies to support information sharing, promotion of best practices and facilitating the network; and,
- maintaining a high priority on securing funding to support the GTA-CAC’s operating costs and activities.



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## Organizational Profile



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including: environmental coordination, health, fleets, transportation and works, economic development, engineering, etc.

## Associates

Associate membership is available to GTA municipal agencies, municipalities located outside of the GTA and organizations affiliated with local government. Associate members may participate in meetings, workshops, and conferences and have access to the GTA-CAC research and communication products; however their role does not include participation in the political announcements and discussion of the Smog Summit or the Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air.

## Decision-Making

The GTA-CAC operates on a consensus decision-making model on all major decisions. Decisions reached at meetings focus on coordinating, enabling, enhancing initiatives of member governments and identifying opportunities for collaboration. The GTA-CAC does not direct the priorities and strategies of member governments.

The Council from time to time also asks members to volunteer to sit on steering committees or advisory committees for particular projects.

## Operating principles

To ensure success, the GTA-CAC will strive to add value in the areas in which it works and, in particular:

- Avoid “initiative overload” by maintaining focus on its key functions and partnering with existing organizations, networks and initiatives where this will deliver results most effectively;
- Be politically neutral;
- Be a lean organization but devote sufficient funding to the activities and communications necessary to achieve its goals; and
- Focus on active facilitation of dialogue and peer teaching rather than the “information clearinghouse” approach.

## Coordination and Support

The Clean Air Partnership (CAP), a registered charity, provides secretariat services to the GTA-CAC and is responsible for the effective administration that supports the Council. CAP is responsible for activating and coordinating the GTA-CAC, and facilitates the planning and implementation of the GTA-CAC’s work program including: developing new announcements and Declarations, organizing annual Smog Summits, publishing Smog Summit proceedings, conducting fundraising, and conducting research.

## Benefits of Participation

For GTA local, regional, provincial and federal government members, benefits of involvement in the GTA-CAC include:

- An opportunity to learn from experienced participants with a “can do” approach to smog reduction.
- Contribution to a much needed local voice on the benefits of addressing air pollution issues proactively.
- Access to strategically timed meetings, workshops and conferences, exploring the most innovative and forward-looking approaches to air quality issues. Attended by the key individuals from participating bodies, these meetings include presentations about new projects, developments, and initiatives as well as discussion of challenges and opportunities.
- Access to reports and policy papers on issues of interest, and opportunities to provide input on terms of reference and the direction of research and policy development work.
- Access to a wider range of policy approaches, together with a forum to “reality test” these approaches.
- A mechanism for identifying sources of funding for projects.
- Dialogue with other levels of government about policy objectives and the opportunity to develop a better appreciation of both the strengths and the jurisdictional limits of respective government roles in the field of air quality improvements.
- Access to an enhanced program of air quality research through the leveraging of research funds and the opportunity for collaborative research efforts.
- Opportunities to participate in air quality campaigns underway throughout the GTA, with assistance for coordination.
- Members have an opportunity to contribute to the creation of the *Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air*.
- Members also have an opportunity to have elected officials participate in the annual Smog Summit, a major media and public event, to highlight achievements and new initiatives

## Structure of the GTA Clean Air Council

### Membership

The GTA Clean Air Council extends membership in the council to all orders of government operational in the GTA, including federal and provincial departments and ministries and all 29 municipal organizations, and explores opportunities to partner with other governments, community groups and the private sector. Government organizations signify their membership by designating representatives to participate in the GTA-CAC. Participation from the provincial level includes: Environment and Transportation and from the federal level includes: Environment, Health, Transportation and Natural Resources. Participation of the municipal level (local and regional governments) may be from a variety of departments

## Introduction

Building on the past five years of significant progress and support from all levels of government, as well as local communities and businesses, this document outlines the work of the Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC) and suggests directions over the next five years. This profile will be used as a mechanism for sharing and promoting the work of the GTA-CAC. It will be revised annually to ensure it reflects the current state and goals of the GTA-CAC.

For updates, reports and information on our current membership, please visit our website at [www.cleanairpartnership.org/gtacac](http://www.cleanairpartnership.org/gtacac) or contact us at [cap@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:cap@cleanairpartnership.org)

## Origins

In May 2000, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health released a report on smog entitled, *Air Pollution Burden of Illness in Toronto*. The report presented compelling evidence that each year 1,000 Toronto residents die prematurely - with 5,500 others hospitalized - as a result of six air pollutants that are common in Toronto's air throughout the year.

City officials decided to do something immediate: organize a summit of all three levels of government in the GTA to explore solutions to the problem. A Smog Summit was proposed to develop a suite of short-term concrete measures that would improve air quality.

This meeting was the forerunner to the GTA-CAC, an inter-governmental working group that aims to help reduce smog across the GTA. It provides a common forum to share ideas on clean air strategies and an ongoing framework under which strategies to clean the air can be developed, tried, and improved in a supportive and cooperative environment of mutual learning and progress.

## Mission

The Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council promotes the reduction of air pollution emissions and increased awareness of regional air quality issues in the Greater Toronto Area through the collective efforts of all levels of government. The Council identifies and promotes the most effective initiatives to reduce the occurrence of smog and other forms of air pollution in the GTA, and their associated health risks.

## Goals

The goals of the GTA-CAC are:

- To enable solutions to air quality challenges through a dynamic network that expands knowledge and enthusiasm, and encourages practical and successful policies and actions;
- To promote a better understanding of air quality problems and their implications for public health among policy makers and to improve their ability to address these problems in an economically effective way;
- To explore opportunities for joint initiatives to reduce air pollution, and related health risks, in the GTA; and
- To liaise with municipalities in the GTA and across Canada and wherever possible with neighbouring jurisdictions in the United States, organizations with compatible mandates, and communities within the airshed to share best practices for reducing smog and air pollution.

## Activities of the GTA Clean Air Council

The GTA-CAC has evolved into a unique and effective forum for all levels of government operational in the GTA to tackle smog within their respective spheres of operations and jurisdiction. The GTA-CAC undertakes activities that also reach businesses and the public in the communities represented by the Council. Some examples include annual community forums that highlight success stories from community groups and industries, and public efforts such as the 2003 GTA-wide Idle-Free Campaign as well as the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air program. By facilitating networking and peer teaching and by communicating the lessons learned to a wider audience, the GTA-CAC makes a vital contribution to smog reduction and building capacity to address local air quality.

### Smog Summit and Inter-governmental Declarations on Clean Air

The Smog Summit is an annual gathering of representatives from industry, the community and all levels of government in the GTA. Aimed at developing initiatives to reduce air pollution, the Summit encourages members to showcase their commitment to clean air initiatives by signing an *Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air*. This Declaration sets the stage for ongoing dialogue and the pursuit of solutions by all levels of government in the GTA, committing them to report progress publicly at future annual summits. The Smog Summits are held in June of every year and continue to evolve as new initiatives are proposed and previous commitments are fulfilled.

### GTA-CAC meetings

Representatives of member jurisdictions of the GTA-CAC meet monthly during the year to develop the Declaration, plan and implement Smog Summits, and follow-up on initiatives announced at the Smog Summit. Meetings are intended to be a forum for discussion and sharing of information. They are hosted primarily by the City of Toronto, but other members are encouraged to host meetings in their jurisdictions. Meetings are organized by CAP and co-moderated by CAP and the City of Toronto.

### GTA-CAC workshops and reports

The GTA-CAC promotes clean air initiatives and smog reduction best practices through workshops, pilot initiatives, and reports on critical issues and other activities to support information sharing, networking and the promotion of best practices.

### Inventory of clean air initiatives

*Governments' Actions on Clean Air in the GTA* is a comprehensive inventory of clean air initiatives undertaken by members of the GTA-CAC. This inventory is intended to be a living document and is periodically updated as new initiatives are developed and as additional GTA-CAC members and associate members are identified. It will be periodically updated online and print version are available online. For the 2003 report online, see: [http://www.cleanairpartnership.org/gtacac/pdf/clean\\_air\\_actions2003.pdf](http://www.cleanairpartnership.org/gtacac/pdf/clean_air_actions2003.pdf)