



## STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

### Toronto Regional Centre for Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development – Supplementary Report

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>             | June 27, 2007                      |
| <b>To:</b>               | Parks & Environment Committee      |
| <b>From:</b>             | Richard Butts, Deputy City Manager |
| <b>Wards:</b>            | All                                |
| <b>Reference Number:</b> | P:\2007\ClusterB\PPFA\TEO\PE07008  |

#### SUMMARY

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A staff report titled “United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development: Memorandum of Understanding” (dated May 23, 2007), was submitted to the June 6, 2007 meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee, recommending that: (i) the Toronto Environment Office (“TEO”) represent the City of Toronto on the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (“Toronto RCE”); (ii) the TEO provide secretariat support services for two years; and (iii) the City sign a memorandum of understanding committing the City to the obligations under recommendations (i) and (ii).

The Committee approved the report’s recommendations in principle and asked that a supplementary report be submitted that clarifies the mandate of the Toronto RCE. This report responds to the Committee’s request.

The Steering Committee of the Toronto RCE held a strategic planning session on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007. As a result, the Steering Committee has agreed to focus its initiatives on the City of Toronto’s Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Action Plan (the “Action Plan”), which was adopted by Executive Committee on June 25, 2007 and will be considered by City Council on July 16 and 17, 2007.

In a letter dated June 26, 2007 to Committee Chair Paula Fletcher (please see attached), the volunteer Chair of the Toronto RCE, Dr. Ingrid Stefanovic, Director of the Centre for Environment, University of Toronto, advises that the Toronto RCE intends to play a leadership role in:

- facilitating awareness and behaviour change on sustainability issues cited in the Action Plan;
- fostering local leadership and building community capacity, through training; and
- coordinating educational initiatives relating to the Action Plan through the Toronto RCE to avoid duplication.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

As reported in the staff report of May 23, 2007, the Toronto RCE will make use of existing resources within the budget for the Toronto Environment Office. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact statement.

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## **DECISION HISTORY**

The Parks and Environment Committee received a staff report from the Deputy City Manager at its June 6, 2007 meeting (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-4047.pdf>) recommending that the City of Toronto sign a Memorandum of Understanding formally committing the City to membership on the Steering Committee for the Toronto RCE and provision of secretariat support.

The Parks and Environment Committee endorsed in principle the City's participation on the Toronto RCE and requested staff to report back to its July 4, 2007 meeting to provide more information on the focus and goals of the Toronto RCE.

This report provides the additional information requested by the Committee.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Background on the United Nations University and the Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development was previously submitted to the Parks and Environment Committee meeting of June 6, 2007.

## **COMMENTS**

With its decision to focus its efforts on the City's recommended Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Action Plan, the Toronto RCE will help the City to harness the educational expertise that exists in Toronto and direct it towards ensuring Torontonians

have the understanding and ability to take action on climate change. The Toronto RCE will play a facilitative and coordinating role in bringing diverse stakeholders together to support the public awareness needed to engage Torontonians on climate change.

The City's Action Plan calls on the City to build partnerships with research institutions and community groups in order to promote action on climate change. The Toronto RCE provides a mechanism to develop these partnerships and coordinate resources to strengthen existing initiatives.

## **CONTACT**

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Richard Butts, Deputy City Manager

## **ATTACHMENT**

June 26, 2007 letter from Dr. Ingrid Stefanovic, Chair of the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, to Committee Chair Paula Fletcher.