



CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT

University of Toronto

33 Willcocks Street, Room 1016V Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3E8

Telephone: 416-978-3475 Fax: 416-978-3884

E-mail: centre.environment@utoronto.ca Web: <http://www.environment.utoronto.ca>

Office of the Director
Email: ingrid.stefanovic@utoronto.ca

June 26, 2007

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Chair, Parks & Environment Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: United Nations University Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development.

Dear Councillor Fletcher,

Further to our recent meeting at City Hall, I am writing to confirm that the Steering Committee of the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development did meet yesterday, and we have agreed to strategically focus our initiatives on the City of Toronto's Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan.

Specifically, the Toronto RCE intends to play a leadership role in:

- Facilitating awareness and behavior change on sustainability issues cited in City's Climate Change & Clean Air Action Plan;
- Fostering local leadership and build community capacity, through training;
- Coordinating educational initiatives relating to the City's plan through the Toronto RCE to avoid duplication;

Members of the Steering Committee were very supportive of this approach, suggesting that we consider some of the following strategies as we move forward:

- focus on ensuring that at-risk youth are engaged in implementing the Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan, by providing them with the knowledge and skills to take leadership roles in their communities;
- Work to identify gaps in programming by compiling and reviewing baseline information on ESD activities in Toronto;

Page Two
June 26, 2007
Councillor Paula Fletcher

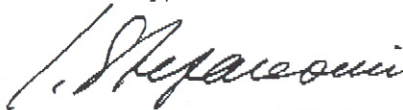
- Work to develop and strengthen programs and activities aimed at key stakeholder groups that need to be engaged in the climate change plan (e.g., students, seniors, business and industry, new Canadians, faith groups, tourists, etc.)
- Work amongst ourselves (i.e., Toronto RCE Steering Committee members) to strengthen our own ESD programs by offering advice and sharing resources;
- Enhance awareness and understanding of ESD in Toronto by completing the ESD inventory, Toronto Sustainability Map, and ESD Best Practices Case Studies that the Toronto Environment Office has already initiated.

In essence, the Toronto RCE offers the City of Toronto a mechanism to ensure that both formal and non-formal educational tools are available to all Torontonians, and align with the objectives of the City's Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan. By identifying gaps in current ESD approaches, and by collectively working to improve the delivery of ESD in Toronto, we hope to play a valuable role in helping the City achieve the goals set out in the Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan.

As you know, 35 cities and regions around the world, including Toronto, were selected by the United Nations University as RCEs to help promote the goals of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at the local level. Under the leadership of Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, the City of Toronto has already played a key role in building commitment to the idea of a Toronto RCE, and the Centre for Environment continues to be fully supportive of moving this initiative forward in a way that enhances action on environmental initiatives in Toronto. I have agreed to chair the Steering Committee for the Toronto RCE, and look forward to continuing to work with the City to strengthen this collaboration.

In closing, I encourage the Parks and Environment Committee to endorse this initiative, and to use the Toronto RCE as a resource in fostering the knowledge and commitment necessary for uptake of the Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan in the community.

Yours sincerely,



Ingrid Leman Stefanovic, Ph.D.
Director and Professor