



CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT

University of Toronto

JUL 31 2009

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

July 16, 2009

Mayor David Miller,
Toronto City Hall,
2nd Floor, 100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, Ontario. M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Miller,

I am writing to you in my capacity of Chair of the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise for the United Nations University.

You may recall that you submitted the formal application to the United Nations, supporting the initiative to create an RCE in Toronto. I thought that you should be formally advised that, at the last meeting of the Steering Committee on May 20, 2009, a unanimous decision was made to suspend the operations of the Toronto RCE.

For the first few years, the Toronto Environment Office served as the secretariat for this initiative. Since October 2008, the Centre for Environment at the University of Toronto has taken over this function. A list of members is attached, for your information. Also attached is an article that I wrote, describing some of our joint initiatives over the last few years.

On the positive side, the City of Toronto and the Centre for Environment have come to work more closely as a result of the RCE. While we have made some good friendships, the Committee decided, however, that a formal RCE structure has little additive value to the environmental education initiatives currently being undertaken both on the level of each individual unit, as well as collaboratively amongst us.

Mark Bekkering, Manager, and Lawson Oates, Director of the Toronto Environment Office will be able to provide you with additional details. As you know, Toronto Council voted against continued funding of this initiative when the Centre for Environment agreed to serve as secretariat.

.../2

Page Two
Mayor David Miller

Please let me know if you require further information. It continues to be a pleasure to work closely with the Toronto Environment Office but in order to do so productively, the RCE structure has proven to be unessential to this fruitful collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



Ingrid Leman Stefanovic,
Professor and Director,
Centre for Environment.

encl.

cc: President David Naylor, University of Toronto
Dean Meric Gertler, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto
Mark Bekkering, Acting Manager, Environmental Planning and Support,
Toronto Environment Office
✓ Lawson Oates, Director, Toronto Environment Office
Chuck Hopkins, United Nations University Chair for Education for
Sustainable Development