



Nancy Martins
boh@toronto.ca

RE: Item HL30.1

Path to Healthier Air: Toronto Air Pollution Burden of Illness Update

25 April 2014

Dear Members of the Board of Health:

I am writing to express support for the six recommendations made by Toronto's Medical Officer of Health in the recent report *Path to Healthier Air: Toronto Air Pollution Burden of Illness Update*.

Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF) has a mandate to support local activities that reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution. As this recent study demonstrates, serious public health effects are being caused by local emissions of airborne contaminants, especially from motor vehicle and local freight traffic. Since transportation emissions are also a major and growing contributor to Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions, actions taken to address this source of pollution will have multiple benefits.

Calls for further investment in rapid transit and active transportation are growing. Over the past two years, TAF has been a partner in a collaborative of over a dozen diverse groups, including Toronto Public Health, business and civic organizations. This group, called [Move the GTHA](#), is demonstrating that the need for investment in public and active transportation is urgent. A mid-April poll reinforces this trend, with 60% of respondents stating they would support an increase in taxes and fees in order to improve transportation infrastructure.

A just-released report, [Greening the Goods](#), funded by TAF, undertaken by the Pembina Institute, and based on a series of multi-stakeholder consultations, showcases policy options for reducing air pollution and greenhouse gases from local trucks. A key recommendation, reinforced by the Medical Officer of Health, is for the City of Toronto to develop an urban freight strategy. *Greening the Goods* also offers information on six other key actions which could help make Toronto a "smart freight" city.

We hope that the Board of Health will advance the Medical Officer of Health's important recommendations for consideration by Toronto City Council to ensure that coordinated and multi-stakeholder action is taken to protect public health, to achieve the City's Council-approved greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and to continuously improve the social, economic and ecological features of our city.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia".

Julia Langer, CEO
Toronto Atmospheric Fund
jlanger@tafund.org Tel: (416) 392-0253