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**For the consideration of the Parks and Environment Subcommittee on Climate Change
Mitigation and Adaptation**

This submission is on behalf of Clean Air Partnership (CAP). CAP was established by the City of Toronto in 2000 with a mission to work with partners to achieve clean air, facilitate the exchange of ideas, advance change and promote and coordinate implementation of actions that improve local air quality and foster resilience. Over the past 15 years we have worked closely with many City Divisions on a range of adaptation and mitigation related projects.

I would like to commend the City on the creation of the Parks and Environment Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. This is a much needed step towards building a competitive, resilient and sustainable city for all. I have two considerations for the Committee, one around mitigation and one around adaptation – both around the theme of collaboration.

Regarding mitigation, I would suggest that any municipally driven mitigation efforts be undertaken in consultation with other municipalities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. We live and work in a common airshed. Climate change mitigation efforts should be regional, provincial or national in scope. In the absence of a strong provincial and federal presence on mitigation, cities have led the way. While the City of Toronto is not responsible for convening such a collaborative effort, through leadership, the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and through an open dialogue with Ontario municipalities, a common mitigation strategy could be developed.

The City of Toronto is an active and leading member of the Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council, a project of Clean Air Partnership. The Clean Air Council is a network of 28 municipalities and health units from across Southern Ontario that have been working collaboratively on the development and implementation of clean air and climate change mitigation and adaptation actions since 2001. At zero additional cost to the City, the Clean Air

Council would proudly facilitate any such dialogue with Ontario municipalities around a common climate change mitigation strategy.

The second point I would request the Subcommittee consider is around climate change adaptation. While mitigation efforts undertaken within the City benefit the region and the planet, adaptation successes realized by the City will be reaped within city boundaries. There is also a great requirement for collaboration around adaptation, however, this collaboration is internal to the City. In our work with municipalities, the same barrier is consistently identified as impeding progress on municipal adaptation initiatives: a lack of internal collaboration.

We would ask that any adaptation strategies developed through the Subcommittee have a holistic, multi-divisional approach, encouraging all City operations to 'ask the climate question' at all relevant junctures – 'How will planning, policy, funding, infrastructure and land development decisions affect greenhouse gas emissions and local vulnerability or resilience to the impacts of climate change?'. Adaptation should not be 100% of the workload of the few, but rather 1% of the workload of many. When we consider adaptation, we are not necessarily reinventing, but rather tweaking and iteratively adjusting what we already do, with the additional consideration of current and future weather. This is the work of all City Divisions.

I thank the Subcommittee for their consideration of these points and wish you every success in the tough road ahead. I would encourage you to use Clean Air Partnership staff and resources at any possible juncture. Please do not hesitate in contacting me to facilitate this.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Behan".

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