

## **Sustainability Roundtable Membership**

*(City Council on April 11, 12 and 13, 2000, amended this Clause by adding thereto the following:*

*“It is further recommended that the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority be included under the category entitled ‘Environment Sector’ in List A as embodied in the communication dated March 14, 2000, from the City Clerk.”)*

**The Policy and Finance Committee recommends the adoption of the Recommendation embodied in the communication (March 14, 2000) from the City Clerk.**

The Policy and Finance Committee reports, for the information of Council, having requested Councillor Jack Layton and the Chief Administrative Officer to provide detailed information, directly to Council for its meeting scheduled to be held on April 11, 2000, on the organizations appearing in List A contained in the aforementioned communication.

**The Policy and Finance Committee submits the following communication (March 14, 2000) from the City Clerk:**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the community representatives noted in List A be approved for membership to the Sustainability Roundtable.

Background:

On December 14, 1999, City Council adopted Clause No. 4 of Report No. 11 of the Policy and Finance Committee, which dealt with the resource implications of the Environmental Task Force report entitled, “Proposed Governance Model for Advanced Environmental Decision-Making”. The City Council approval established the Sustainability Roundtable and a listing with regard to membership thereto.

The Environmental Task Force was directed by City Council to submit a list of community representatives to become members of the Sustainability Roundtable to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.

The Environmental Task Force at its meeting held on February 21, 2000 had before it a report (February 10, 2000) from Councillor Layton recommending, amongst other matters, that the community representatives noted in List A be asked to nominate a representative for membership to the Sustainability Roundtable and that the Policy and Finance Committee be requested to approve the same.

At a special meeting of the Environmental Task Force Steering Committee on January 24, 2000, Task Force members suggested that the majority of community representatives should be “organizational” representatives with a small number of at-large members.

The following criteria were used in assessing which organizations should be included in List A:

- (i) organization is recognized as a community/sectoral leader;
- (ii) organization has community/sectoral accountability; and
- (iii) organization has a city-wide mandate.

The Environmental Task Force submits the following List A to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration:

#### List A

Environment Sector:

- (a) Community University Research Alliance (CURA) Project Promoting Sustainability;
- (b) Toronto Environmental Alliance;
- (c) Canadian Environmental Law Association;
- (d) Toronto Atmospheric Fund;
- (e) Waterfront Regeneration Trust; and
- (f) Toronto District Health Council.

Social Equity Sector:

- (a) Toronto District School Board or Toronto Catholic District School Board (one representative to alternate every year);
- (b) The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto;
- (c) The Children’s Aid Society of Toronto or the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto (one representative to alternate every year);
- (d) “Street-level” organization to be nominated by the Homeless Advisory Committee;
- (e) Foodshare Metro Toronto; and
- (f) Urban Alliance for Race Relations.

Economy Sector:

- (a) Toronto Board of Trade;
- (b) Toronto Real Estate Board;
- (c) The United Way of Greater Toronto;
- (d) The Canadian Environment Industry Association (Ontario Branch);
- (e) Coalition for a Green Economic Recovery; and
- (f) Labour Council of Toronto.

Councillor Jack Layton, Don River, appeared before the Policy and Finance Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

*(City Council on April 11, 12 and 13, 2000, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, the following joint report (April 10, 2000) from the Chief Administrative Officer and Councillor Jack Layton:*

Purpose:

*To provide information on the organizations being recommended for membership of the Sustainability Roundtable.*

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

*None applicable.*

Recommendations:

*It is recommended that this report be received by City Council for information.*

Background:

*On March 28, 2000 the Policy and Finance Committee requested Councillor Jack Layton and the Chief Administrative Officer to provide detailed information directly to Council on the organizations appearing in List A contained in Policy and Finance Committee Report 4 (9). This report responds to the Committee's request.*

Comments:

*The Environmental Task Force submitted the following list of organizations to be considered for membership of the Sustainability Roundtable:*

*Environment Sector:*

- *Community University Research Alliance (CURA) Project Promoting Sustainability*
- *Toronto Environmental Alliance*
- *Canadian Environmental Law Association*
- *Toronto Atmospheric Fund*
- *Waterfront regeneration Trust*
- *Toronto District Health Council*

*Social Equity Sector:*

- *Toronto District School Board or Toronto Catholic District School Board (one representative to alternate every year)*
- *Community Social Planning Council of Toronto*
- *Children's Aid Society of Toronto or Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (one representative to alternate every year)*
- *"Street –level" organization to be nominated by the Homeless Advisory Committee*
- *Foodshare Metro Toronto*
- *Urban Alliance for Race relations*

*Economy Sector:*

- *Toronto Board of Trade*
- *Toronto Real Estate Board*
- *United Way of Greater Toronto*
- *Canadian Environment Industry Association (Ontario Branch)*
- *Coalition for a Green Economic Recovery*
- *Labour Council of Toronto*

*A description of each organization follows. The descriptions are based on information provided by the organizations, generally through their publicly accessible websites.*

*Community University Research Alliance (CURA) Project Promoting Sustainability:*

*The Community-University Research Alliances (CURA) initiative is a consortium between 2 academic units: the Environmental Studies Program of Innis College, University of Toronto, and the York Centre for Applied Sustainability, York University. It further links the following key agencies: City of Toronto, the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP) and Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) with the two universities in a unique and innovative partnership.*

*CURA's Project Promoting Sustainability initiative addresses the issue of how academia can better link with the non-profit sector and local governments to ensure that scholarly research agendas reflect community needs, and to encourage action initiatives in collaborative promotions of community sustainability. The initiative seeks to encourage and support collaborative efforts between sectors with special emphasis on non-profits, local government and*

universities. It proposes to achieve this objective through a series of nine complementary projects, each of which aims to link research and action. These projects will focus on assessing capacity for urban food growth; environmental monitoring; disseminating pollution information to the public; promoting education and awareness of the links between health and the environment; professional development for sustainable learning; building the management capacity of the environmental non-profit sector; expanding the role of non-profits in environmental governance; building effective environmental leadership; and creating a model sustainability charter and by-laws.

#### *Toronto Environmental Alliance:*

*The Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) was formed in 1988 in order to provide an activist voice to local Toronto issues. TEA's mandate is to promote a greener Toronto. Their vision of a healthy community is based on equity, access, safety and a clean environment. TEA works with concerned individuals, public health agencies, local governments and grassroots organizations in order to encourage the participation of Toronto citizens on local issues and to provide a forum for citizens to be heard on environmental issues.*

*TEA focuses on six major campaign areas, working on a variety of projects and programs related to Smog and Climate Change, Urban Pesticides, Waste Reduction, Sustainable Transportation, Water, and Involving Youth.*

*TEA undertakes research, education and action on environmental issues by: sponsoring public educational events such as Turning Down the Heat: New Energy Futures (co-sponsored with the David Suzuki Foundation), the Organic Lawncare Conference, and Healthy Home: A Toxics Reduction Program for Social Housing Apartment Buildings; publishing documents such as the Use It/ReUse It guide; participating in public consultation processes such as provincial and federal smog plan consultations and the Public Education and Outreach Issue Table of the Climate Change Strategy; organizing action in the community through the Bottle Drive to Fight Hunger and a conference for health care workers on Health care without Harm: A Pollution-Prevention Program for Hospitals.*

*TEA speaks out on issues that shape the local environment. With the help of community volunteers, TEA has made progress on critical environmental issues while expanding the skills and knowledge of the broader community. Over the past decade TEA has grown to play a well-respected role both in the community and in municipal governments.*

*TEA works closely with other environmental organizations through informal contacts, issue-specific coalitions (e.g. the Ontario Clean Air Alliance, the OntAIRio campaign) and through environmental networks (e.g. a TEA representative sits on the steering committee of the Ontario Environment Network). TEA works with the health care sector through the Health Care Without Harm coalition and through cooperation with individual doctors and nurses in Toronto. TEA works quite closely with municipal politicians and city staff in order to promote and ensure implementation of environmental measures. TEA is also represented on the Environmental Task Force's steering committee.*

*Canadian Environmental Law Association:*

*In 1970, a group of young concerned law students and community activists formed the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) to give voice to the environment in policy and laws. The effects of development, resource exploitation, waste generation and toxic chemical use were widespread and fuelling public concern. Yet there was no body of laws or agencies in place to address these concerns.*

*CELA's first campaign was for a bill of rights for the environment, a goal that was finally achieved in the early 1990's. During the 1970's and the early 1980's much of CELA's work dealt with the legacy of environmental neglect. Case work dealt with waste sites throughout Ontario, urban lead pollution and noise complaints, mercury pollution of the English-Wabigoon river system, loss of wetlands, threats to Ontario's natural heritage, a myriad of threats to the Niagara Escarpment, and urban sprawl displacing tender fruitlands. CELA was also one of the first environmental groups in North America to address the environmental impacts of international trade agreements.*

*In 1977, CELA received core funding from the Ontario Legal Aid Plan as part of Ontario's community-led legal clinic system. CELA's objectives are:*

- to provide equitable access to justice to those otherwise unable to afford representation for their environmental problems;*
- to advocate for comprehensive laws, standards and policies that will protect and enhance environmental quality in Ontario and throughout Canada;*
- to increase public participation in environmental decision-making;*
- to provide the public with information, research, advice and educational materials to assist them in addressing environmental problems;*
- to work with communities, neighbourhoods, individuals and public interest groups to foster long-term sustainable solutions to environmental concerns and resource use;*
- to protect ecosystem and public health by preventing degradation from pollution, destruction of natural areas and resource extraction and misuse;*
- to work, increasingly with other constituencies, in defending democratic rights and essential services significant to social health and well-being;*
- to mitigate the recent erosions of the environmental protection framework from deregulation, budget cuts, harmonization of standards and corporate self-regulation; and*
- to use all of these tools to address the increasing impacts of economic globalization on environmental integrity.*

*CELA is committed to working with the community to achieve common goals. CELA is able to help other under-resourced groups gain understanding of complex environmental law and policy issues and these groups in turn give CELA access to the experience and perspective of groups facing land-use, water and air problems. CELA works with communities throughout the Americas, across Canada, around the Great Lakes as well as throughout Ontario.*

### *Toronto Atmospheric Fund:*

*The Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF) was established in 1992 by the former City of Toronto with an endowment of \$23 million from the sale of city property. The Fund was created to help Toronto meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2005. TAF's mandate expanded January 1, 1998 to cover the amalgamated City of Toronto. It is managed by a board of directors made up of city councillors, city staff and citizens who work to ensure that the fund achieves the following goals:*

- to promote global climate stabilization through reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and greenhouse gas precursors into the atmosphere;*
- to promote public understanding of climate change and its implications for our urban environment;*
- to promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation and efficiency;*
- to create and preserve urban green spaces that act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; and*
- to provide support and funding for community projects related to these goals.*

*TAF is self-sustaining. Loans are returned with interest and lent over and over to other projects. Capital is also invested in conventional investments. Interest from investments and loans, now about \$650,000 a year, is granted to community groups and other organizations that take action and educate people about climate change and solutions. The fund is used to finance projects that:*

- save energy and money*
- cut emissions that are changing the climate*
- create jobs, and*
- make the city a healthier place to live and work..*

### *Waterfront Regeneration Trust:*

*The Waterfront Regeneration Trust was established by the Province of Ontario in June, 1992 to coordinate regeneration efforts along the Lake Ontario waterfront. The Trust was one of the outcomes of the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront.*

*The Trust has adopted an ecosystem approach that takes into account the relationships between the air, the land, the water, and living organisms. The approach encompasses both urban and rural activities at local, regional, national, and international levels. It respects natural rather than political boundaries. The Trust acknowledges its links to other Great Lakes, watersheds, homes, and businesses -- via Lake Ontario itself, as well as rivers, creeks, watermains, sewers, and roads. By making regeneration an issue in which everyone has a stake, the Trust encourages the whole community to take responsibility and get involved in its progress.*

*The Trust works with governments, the private sector, universities, service clubs, community organizations, and concerned individuals in a number of ways, its priority being to strengthen*

*existing relationships and actively seek new partnerships. Nine principles (Clean, Green, Accessible, Connected, Open, Useable, Diverse, Affordable and Attractive) guide the work of the Trust and its partners. A notable achievement of the Trust was the creation of the waterfront trail.*

#### *Toronto District Health Council:*

*The Toronto District Health Council (TDHC) works together with the people who provide health services, and the people who use them, to create plans for the various parts of the health system. The TDHC is working toward a local health system in which all of the parts work together to ensure that the services the community needs are available and accessible.*

*District Health Councils (DHCs), located throughout the province, are the local voice in health planning. People who use and deliver health and health related services come together through the DHCs to provide advice to the Minister of Health. DHCs are advisory, health planning organizations. They were developed in the belief that community members can best determine local health needs and priorities. Council members are volunteers appointed by Provincial Cabinet based on local nominations. They receive no payment for their services. In addition to Council members, DHCs involve hundreds of other community volunteers in their work through committees, task groups, and public consultations.*

*In common with all District Health Councils, the TDHC works on planning and coordinating health services in the most appropriate way for the population it serves. To achieve this, TDHC undertakes projects that identify service gaps and assess community needs.*

#### *Toronto District School Board:*

*Ontario's new district school boards were created in 1997 and took office on January 1, 1998. The province has 72 school boards in four publicly funded systems:*

- 31 English boards*
- 29 English Catholic boards*
- 4 French boards*
- 8 French Catholic boards*

*The Toronto District School Board was created in January 1998 by the amalgamation of the six local boards of education and the Metropolitan Toronto School Board. The Board's mission is to enable all students to reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become responsible members of a democratic society.*

*In the 1998-99 school year, the Toronto District School Board served more than 273,000 students in 565 schools, employed approximately 16,700 teachers, approximately 8,500 (full-time equivalent) support staff, and more than 1,000 principals and vice-principals.*

*Toronto Catholic District School Board:*

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board was created in January 1998 and is one of the successors to the Metropolitan Separate School Board (MSSB). The seven French schools previously operated by MSSB, are now under the auspices of the French Language Catholic School Board. In the 1998-99 school year, the Toronto Catholic District School Board had approximately 96,000 students in 186 elementary schools and 36 secondary schools. Each school offers a well-rounded, Christian curriculum. In addition, some schools offer comprehensive programs for students with special talents.*

*Community Social Planning Council of Toronto:*

*The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto (CSPC) is a not-for-profit community organization with over a hundred years of collective experience in social planning, community development, policy and research, advocacy and coordination of social services. The work of CSPC is fuelled by the efforts and commitment of highly-qualified staff and dedicated volunteers from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The CSPC was formed by the integration of six social planning councils across six municipalities - East York Community Development Council, Etobicoke Social Development Council, Human Services of Scarborough, North York Inter-Agency and Community Council, Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto and City of York Community and Agency Social Planning Council.*

*CSPC's vision is based on a commitment to building a civic society in which diversity, equity, social and economic justice, interdependence and active citizen participation are central to all aspects of life - in families, neighbourhoods, voluntary and recreational activities, at work and in politics.*

*In pursuit of a civic society, CSCT's work focuses primarily on:*

- policy analysis and research;*
- community education and advocacy;*
- community capacity building; and*
- social reporting;*

*Children's Aid Society of Toronto:*

*The Children's Aid Society of Toronto is responsible for the protection of children under the age of 16 within the mandate of the Child and Family Services Act. The Society has been serving the children and families of Toronto since 1875. It also provides out-of-home care for children and has developed child abuse and neglect prevention programs.*

*The Children's Aid Society of Toronto is one of the largest child welfare organizations in Canada. It is an incorporated not-for-profit agency governed by a volunteer board of directors and funded by the Province of Ontario. The Society's legislated mandate is to protect children from harm. With the goal of early intervention, the Society also provides assessments, crisis intervention, counselling and services to prevent child abuse and neglect. In addition, the*

*Society helps vulnerable communities to protect and support their children. Many of these programs are offered in partnership with other community agencies. Although it is the Society's goal, whenever possible, to keep children with their own families, it offers a broad variety of substitute care programs, including foster care for those children who, for various reasons, cannot remain at home or live with relatives. The Society also facilitates the adoption of Crown wards (permanent wards of the province).*

#### *Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto:*

*The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) is one of the largest child welfare agencies in North America and is responsible for the protection of children, ages 16 years and younger, within Toronto. As a child welfare agency, CCAS investigates situations involving suspected abuse or neglect of children. CCAS responds to reports of suspected abuse from the community, police, schools, and hospitals. It also receive voluntary requests for help from families.*

*The vast majority of children who receive the services of CCAS do so while they are living at home. The goal is to ensure the safety of children, and whenever possible, to provide support to families so that children can remain in the family home. Children come into the care of CCAS when an investigation reveals that a child is in imminent danger of harm.*

*CCAS is directed by a volunteer board representing the Catholic community. Members of the board are proposed by the nominating committee and elected by the general membership at the annual meeting.*

#### *Foodshare Metro Toronto:*

*Foodshare Metro Toronto is an umbrella organization for several different programs promoting good nutrition and the growing and distribution of food. It is not a food bank. A hunger hotline provides referral and counseling for those needing food. The Student Nutrition program helps establish breakfast, snack or lunch programs in schools or communities. The Community Kitchens program provides information, training, resources and monthly support meetings.*

*Other activities include school gardening, community gardens, making home-made baby food from fresh affordable food, plus public education and research. Foodshare also has a hunger issues library and newsletter. The Good Food Box program distributes fresh fruit and vegetables to individuals and families for \$15, twice a month. The Kitchen Incubator program provides an industrial kitchen to small business entrepreneurs who lack access to a commercial kitchen.*

#### *Urban Alliance for Race Relations:*

*The Urban Alliance for Race Relations (UARR) was formed in 1975 by a group of concerned Toronto citizens. Its mission is to promote a stable and healthy multiracial, multi-ethnic environment in the Metro Toronto community by undertaking educational, research, and advocacy activities that promote racial and ethnic harmony.*

*The UARR is a non-profit charitable organization. It works primarily in a proactive way with the community, public and private sectors to provide educational programs and research which are critical in addressing racism in society.*

*The UARR works specifically to:*

- *create awareness of issues which exist in a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural urban environment;*
- *promote full and equal participation by all sectors of the community by dismantling barriers to equal opportunity; and*
- *assist public and private institutions to develop policies and practices that will ensure equal access to jobs and services in Canada.*

*Toronto Board of Trade:*

*The Toronto Board of Trade was founded in 1845 by members of the business community at that time. It is guided by a board of directors and is Canada's largest local chamber of commerce with over 10,000 members. The Board of Trade offers business people professional & business development programs, seminars and workshops; compensation and salary surveys; business databases, mailing lists, directories and library services; a business centre and business services (mailbox rental, photocopying, faxing); policy advocacy and lobbying; networking opportunities; international trade contacts and information through World Trade Centre membership and document certification; meeting facilities and private office rentals; dining facilities, restaurants and catering services; wedding facilities; golf courses and other services and amenities.*

*Toronto Real Estate Board:*

*The Toronto Real Estate Board is a resource centre for information on real estate across the Greater Toronto Area. Serving its members and the home buying and selling public, TREB has provided in-depth information on the real estate industry for more than 75 years. TREB operates the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and, since 1970, has published Real Estate News, Canada's largest real estate-specific community newspaper. TREB's Political Action Committee advocates on behalf of members on real estate related issues. It does so through one-on-one meetings, participation in task forces and media advocacy campaigns.*

*More than 300 members participate in 13 different Committees, creating new policies and programs for the membership at large. These major Committees handle the policy matters and recommend action to the Board of Directors. Various departments provide services to TREB's Members - from handling their stationery and form requirements, to their property photography needs and social programs. As an educational leader, the Toronto Real Estate Board keeps abreast of new trends in the real estate industry, and offers courses. As realtors, members subscribe to a strict Code of Ethics and the By-Laws, Ethics and Arbitration Committees all assist in the professional dealings of the membership. The Corporate Relations Division provides members and the public with real estate information and statistics on an ongoing basis. In addition, TREB has one of the largest real estate resource centres in Canada.*

*The United Way of Greater Toronto:*

*The United Way is a registered Canadian charity, created to bring together volunteer and financial resources in a common cause of caring. Its mandate is to raise and distribute funds for local communities. The United Way of Greater Toronto officially extends throughout Toronto's "M" postal code. United Way of Greater Toronto has a 50-person Board of Trustees and a variety of key committees, all of which include representatives from business, labour and the community.*

*During the past 40 years, the United Way has raised millions of dollars for responses to urgent social needs in the community. It funds 200 social and human service agencies covering a wide range of services. The United Way is community built and community driven. Some 80,000 volunteers help it and its agencies annually.*

*The Canadian Environment Industry Association (Ontario Branch):*

*CEIA Ontario is a private sector Association dedicated to improving the economic health of environmental business, and to helping strengthen the country's economic competitiveness. The environment industry sector is part of the "New Economy" working to achieve sustainable development. The Association has over 200 member companies. They provide new technologies and processes for achieving environmentally-sound development.*

*CEIA Ontario works towards bringing Ontario and foreign environmental companies together to form partnerships, and to provide new joint-venture export opportunities. CEIA Ontario links buyers and sellers of environmental goods and services. It provides environmental information and commercial intelligence on emerging developments in Canada and the world. The Association works to ensure the continuation of strong environmental initiatives to protect and improve the environment.*

*CEIA Ontario provides a number of services to help its members strengthen their economic activity and to help Canada meet its environmental commitments.*

*Coalition for a Green Economic Recovery:*

*The Coalition for a Green Economy (also known as the Green Coalition) is a non-profit community-based organization that encourages the growth of a green economy, and small green businesses in particular. Meetings are held once a month with a different environmental theme each month. All meetings are held at Toronto City Hall. They are free of charge and open to the general public. Each meeting includes a presentation on the theme of the month and a formal opportunity for networking. Members include small green businesses, people from other non-profits, and members of the community at large. The Green Coalition has been in existence since 1992. In February 2000, the Green Coalition applied for incorporation as a provincial charity with pre-arranged objects.*

*The Green Coalition also sponsors workshops on specific themes, for example, green marketing, and healthy homes.*

*Toronto and York Region Labour Council:*

*The Toronto and York Region Labour Council is the central labour body for Toronto and York Region. The Council is chartered by the Canadian Labour Congress and is an affiliate of the Ontario Federation of Labour. The Council's prime responsibility is to represent trade unions and their members in their dealings with municipal governments. The Council does so on behalf of 180,000 union members in almost 400 affiliated local unions. The Council also serves as an organizing arm of the labour movement and carries out various campaigns for both the OFL and the CLC.*

*The Labour Council is governed in monthly meetings of rank and file delegates who have been elected by their local unions. Committees also meet monthly to discuss current issues and propose policy to general meetings. An Executive Board meets once a month to administer the affairs of the Council, make spending recommendations, and to propose policy statements for discussions at the general meetings.*

*Services provided by the Labour Council include:*

- organizing strike and campaign support for affiliates;*
- communicating information and labour news to unions and news media;*
- serving as the labour link with coalition partners such as social justice and equity seeking groups;*
- making deputations to municipal governments;*
- providing labour candidates for various municipal boards, agencies, commissions and non-government organizations; and*
- organizing annual events such as the Labour Day Parade and issues based rallies and demonstrations.*

*Conclusions:*

*Policy and Finance Committee Report 4 (9) contains a list of organizations which the Environmental Task Force is recommending be considered for membership of the Sustainability Roundtable. As requested by the Policy and Finance Committee at its meeting on March 28, 2000 this report provides further details about the organizations appearing on the list.)*