



Faith & the Common Good

Seeking Common Ground for the Common Good



20 July 2011

City of Toronto Executive Committee

RE: Support for the Outstanding Work of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund

Dear Committee Members,

Faith & the Common Good has had the privilege of working with a variety of funders over the last decade as we have helped faith communities in Toronto and across Canada “green” their religious buildings. TAF helped us initiate this program in 2004 and enabled us to make connections with a variety of other funders. I cannot say enough good things about their insight, encouragement, and financial support in launching this project that has gone on to help over 500 faith communities so far.

Mary Pickering and Ben Marans have both been very supportive of our work and have gone the extra mile to see that we had a successful beginning. They coached us on what was important to them as funders and what would help us with other funders. It felt like a collaborative effort that enabled us all to meet our objectives. They have continued to be friends and allies in our work.

Beyond their support for our project, I have been impressed by their innovative thinking and collaborative work with a variety of “eco” projects in Toronto. One knows that if TAF is involved there has been serious thinking and a solid action plan for improving the quality of the environment in Toronto and for the benefit of us all.

As a citizen of this city I appreciate the commitment of our city to be a world leaders in ecological innovation and making our city a healthier place to live. TAF is central to the city’s global reputation and an essential service to the life of our city. As we face the increasing challenges of climate change (look at our record heat wave and uncertain weather patterns) we need TAF to continue to spark ideas and implement plans of action that lead towards a more sustainable future.

I would strongly encourage the Executive Committee to continue to see TAF as essential to our city’s future. It is not a fringe service but essential to the health and well being of all Toronto’s citizens. Without their important work we jeopardize the advancements we have made and need to make if we are to address the realities of climate change in our city, country and world.

I am happy to offer any further testimony of TAF’s work that you might be interested in.

Sincerely,

Ted Reeve
Executive Director

Faith & the Common Good
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