

EX8.1.40



January 11, 2011

City of Toronto Executive Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario

**RE: THE TORONTO ATMOSPHERIC FUND**

Dear City Councillors,

The Toronto District School Board is Canada's greenest school district. In June, we not only certified 401 of our schools as bronze, silver, gold and platinum EcoSchools, but our program has spread to more than 1000 other schools in the province. We believe that we are beginning to make a significant difference in helping our students learn to live more sustainably on the planet.

The TDSB has not become a Canadian environmental leader on its own and in isolation. We have benefited directly from the leadership of the City of Toronto in the environmental field. Our schools have competed for the City's Green Toronto Awards, participated in its Green Screens program, and benefited from the City's extensive recycling, water and energy conservation programs. Tens of thousands of our students, every year, have been directly educated and inspired by the example set by City Council and the City of Toronto. The TDSB has made significant progress, at least in part, because of the strong direction and leadership provided by the City.

More recently, the TDSB has become a partner in TAF's EV-300 program. This excellent program provided the TDSB with highly credible information and guidance which has helped the Board begin the process of greening its fleet of vehicles. TAF has also provided valuable advice and guidance to the Board efforts to conserve energy in its buildings. Not only has this help the Board reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, but has also led to lower operating costs for our schools. By reducing the amount of money we are paying for utilities, the Board can direct more of its resources to cleaning and maintaining its school buildings.

In terms of environmental leadership, the fact that the City of Toronto "walks the talk" has had significant impact on our students and schools. It's my hope that you will continue to provide this leadership for many years into the future.

Sincerely,

Richard Christie  
Senior Manager, Sustainability