

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local Union Toronto



July 26, 2011

Mayor Rob Ford  
 Executive Committee Chair  
 City of Toronto

Dear Sir:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 353, Toronto is the electrical trade union which represents 10,000 electrical workers in the Toronto area. Education and skills development are a high priority for the electricians, apprentices and technicians who seek knowledge and aspire to lifelong learning.

The IBEW Local Union 353 Education Department operates two training centres with a combined area of over 50,000 sq. feet. The centres provide trade related education and training programs. There are 44 courses in our part time training catalog.

We believe that the Toronto Atmospheric Fund is a great example of how the City of Toronto has made very significant contributions to improving everyday life for our citizens and has set an example for urban centres around the world.

TAF has supported our efforts to train electricians and apprentices in the field of solar electricity and has help helped us network with many innovative companies and social groups in the field of sustainable urban development. They have also introduced us to other funding organizations that have supported our efforts to create awareness, educational programs and commercial opportunities for our electrical contractors.

We have in turn, provided input and subject matter expertise to many other groups in the industry, such as the Canadian Standards Association, Ontario Ministry of Colleges Training and Universities, and the Canadian Green Building Council. We have also provided assistance to companies that are introducing new products and technology in energy efficiency and non-emitting electrical power generation.

TAF has created a common forum for very diverse groups and dedicated citizens to exchange ideas, form partnerships and inspire each other to keep working for the common good; what could be a more universal and democratic benefit than cleaner air for all city residents?

They have fulfilled their mandate very effectively by engaging professional staff with very dedicated volunteers and sponsors. We urge you to preserve the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and allow them to continue in their excellent service to our city.

Yours Truly,

Steven Martin  
 Business Manager/Financial Secretary

SM:ad

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