



June 30, 2013

Kelly McCarthy
Executive Committee Secretariat
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Letter of Support for Pan-Am Path, 2015 Legacy Project

Dear Members of Executive Committee:

As the provincial trails association, The Ontario Trails Council (OTC) and a representative founding member of the Toronto Trails Committee (TTC) we are sending you this letter in support of the Pan Am Path initiative as a legacy project of the Toronto 2015 Pan/Para-pan American Games.

We are strong believers and promoters of the Pan-Am Path because it parallels our work. At OTC we advocate for multi-use trail and trail networks, both in Toronto and throughout Ontario. We have worked, for example, with the creation and completion of the Trillium Trail Network, The Waterfront Trail and the Trans Canada Trail – all exercises in linking existing trail to create broader networks and legacy rides, provincial trail connectivity and the National Trail legacy project.

We strongly urge that the Executive Committee support the Pan-Am Path initiative as a legacy project of the 2015 Pan/Para-pan American Games.

At Ontario Trails and the Toronto Committee we believe the Pan-Am Path is a unique project, that will be, perhaps the most significant active living trail in Toronto. A Path that touches and connects some of the city's most diverse neighborhoods from Rexdale to Port Union. By completing only a handful of missing sections, a path of over 70 continuous kilometers of off-road trail will emerge.

As organizations operating in and outside of Toronto, we at OTC and TTC recognize that this legacy trail will create the kind of opportunity that will excite both Torontonians, and Pan-Am visitors alike, to explore the most treed city in North America, from the ground on up.

This path will help bridge the divide between downtown and the inner suburbs and promote active transportation and increased walkability, in turn improving the health of our city's residents, promoting business and tourism, and further developing our city's transportation infrastructure. It will also link together existing networks and portions of local trails (i.e. East Don) to regional trails (i.e. Waterfront) to National (i.e. TCT at Humber River), thereby increasing the cache of ALL Toronto's Trails!

We strongly recommend that City Council provide the necessary financial and logistical support to bring the Pan-Am Path Project to fruition. Thank you very much for your time and thought in considering this important step forward for the city. We hope to see you on the Pan-Am Path.

Sincerely,

Patrick Connor CAE, SSA, BA (Hons)
c.c. OTC Executive.

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