Path to Healthier Air: Toronto Air Pollution Burden of Illness Update

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• Air pollution in Toronto from all sources currently gives rise to 1,300 premature deaths and 3,550 hospitalizations annually

• This represents a decrease of 23% in premature deaths and 41% in hospitalizations as compared with 2004 estimates
• Most pollutants show steady decline since 2000

• Levels since 2009 have stagnated or may be increasing
Health Impacts of Local Air Pollution

- Traffic is the most significant local source of air pollution and resulting burden of illness.

- Other sources also contribute to the overall burden of illness from air pollution.
• Reducing impacts of traffic pollution
  – Mode Shift
  – Goods movement
  – Highways
  – Vehicle Performance Standards
Key Recommendations

- Ontario to fund municipal transit and active transportation infrastructure to reduce air pollution emissions in Toronto and the GTHA;

- ensure that all Metrolinx "Big Move" projects incorporate safe infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists to encourage travel that reduces air pollution emissions;

- the City of Toronto develop an urban freight strategy to improve efficiency and co-ordination of heavy-duty vehicles which often have high emissions;

- the City of Toronto explore design solutions to mitigate impacts of highway emissions on nearby residential areas;

- improve access to air monitoring equipment that can measure air pollution levels on and near roads by sharing costs with neighbouring municipalities and the provincial government.