



STAFF REPORT TA12.7
Action Required

Date:	September 12, 2016
To:	Toronto Atmospheric Fund Board of Directors
From:	Ian Klesmer, Grants Manager and Policy Advisor
Re:	Grants and Programs Allocation Recommendations

SUMMARY

The TAF Grants and Programs Committee met on June 15, 2016 and recommended that the Board approve one grant with a value of up to \$188,800.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the TAF Board of Directors:

1. Approve a grant request for the Pembina Institute for up to \$188,800 over three years to establish a Neighbourhood Freight Forum (NFF) with the Duke Heights Business Improvement Area (BIA), and to apply learnings from this pilot in developing a framework for enabling NFFs across Toronto.
2. Support the following CEO-approved internal project allocations:
 - a. Up to \$15,000 over four months to advance the implementation of low carbon policy solutions at all levels of government and to develop a strategy for refining TAF’s policy research and advocacy approach in light of the proposed provincial endowment and expansion to the GTHA.
 - b. Up to \$5,000 over one month to sponsor the Minden Symposium and support TAF’s success in creating a meaningful engagement process for the TransformTO initiative.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the grants request is approved, \$76,000 would come out of TAF’s 2016 grants budget, \$52,750 would come out of the 2017 budget, and \$60,050 would come out of the 2018 budget.

Grants Program Budget	2016
Total available funding	\$685,977
Grant allocations committed to date	\$339,521
Recommended allocations from September 9, 2016 Committee meeting	\$76,000
Remaining balance	\$270,456

In addition, \$20,000 will come out of TAF’s 2016 internal program budget.

Internal Program Budget	2016
Total available funding	\$309,600
Internal program allocations committed to date	\$275,800
Remaining internal program allocations	\$ 33,800

BACKGROUND

Grants

The Pembina Institute – Piloting a Neighbourhood Freight Forum in Toronto

The goal of this project is to establish a partnership with the Duke Heights Business Improvement Area (BIA) to establish a Neighbourhood Freight Forum (NFF). With the Pembina Institute providing technical and facilitation expertise, this forum would bring together representatives from among the 2,500 businesses and local freight service providers to discuss local delivery challenges and develop strategies to address them. The experiences from this three-year pilot project would help to establish best practices and inform the development of a framework for creating NFFs across Toronto.

Internal program allocations

Advancing Low Carbon Policy Solutions

The purpose of this program allocation is to cover the activities undertaken by TAF’s Policy Research and Engagement Coordinator that are not directly related to TAF’s Building Value project. These include:

- Actively scanning at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels for upcoming climate-related policy consultations and proposals
- Engaging with diverse stakeholders to maximize alignment of policy positions and coordinate messaging around key policy areas
- Researching and writing policy briefs and recommendations in collaboration with senior staff
- Supporting communications to expand awareness of key policy issues and TAF’s activities in this area

Additionally, this allocation will help to fund the development of TAF’s revised policy research, engagement and advocacy strategy in light of its proposed regional expansion.

Minden Symposium Sponsorship

The Minden Symposium is an annual event hosted by the University of Toronto’s School of Environment as a forum for discussion and debate on urgent environmental issues. The 2016 Minden Symposium will be focused on the theme of best practices in broad community engagement in climate action. The event will see leading international specialists in community engagement techniques present and debate the latest public engagement theories and practices, in light of the climate change issue. It will be designed to:

- Attract key local engagement specialists and key climate communications stakeholders in the Toronto region and provide them with international best practice information
- Leverage the assembled local and international expertise to “workshop” preliminary ideas about design approaches to engage the public in Phase II of the TransformTO initiative

Grants and Programs Allocation Recommendations – Action Required

- Create a public learning opportunity about community engagement and the role it plays in driving the climate agenda

CONTACT

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