

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Date: February 7, 2019
To: Toronto Atmospheric Fund Board of Directors
From: Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Board and Committee Membership

At its meeting on December 4, 5, and 13, City Council adopted a plan to recalibrate City Council's governance system for 26 members, including reducing the appointments of Council members to boards and committees. Appointments to TAF's Board are reduced to three Council members. We are very pleased to welcome Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, to welcome back Councillor Shelley Carroll after a four year hiatus, and to have Councillor Mike Layton continue on the Board.

Please also join me in thanking Councillors Stephen Holyday, Christen Carmichael Greb, John Campbell, and Gord Perks for their contributions to the TAF Board.

As per TAF's By-Law, the membership of each of our Standing Committee's must have at least one Councillor. Councillor Carroll will fill the vacancy left by Councillor Campbell on the Investment Committee.

Recommendations for the appointment of a new Investment Committee Member and new Board Secretary are included in separate agenda items.

Staff and Office News

In December 2018, Mary Pickering, TAF's VP-Programs & Partnerships, received formal designation as an accredited mentor and trainer-practitioner by the UK-based Partnership Broker Association (PBA). The designation recognizes Mary's training and practice in this field since 2011. Mary is currently the only accredited trainer in Ontario and one of just three in Canada. Development of more local training capacity is a goal of TAF's current work with the PBA, to help make this valuable learning experience more accessible and affordable to local practitioners.

Julie Leach, Communications Manager, will be on parental leave for one year beginning March 8. A temporary replacement will be selected soon.

Juan Sotes joins the TAF team as our Carbon & Co-benefits Researcher. He completed his Master's in Environmental Science & Technology at Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain and brings over five years of experience in climate change mitigation in

Spain, Peru, and Canada. He will fill in for Maryam Shekarzifard, Carbon & Co-benefits Quantification Manager, while she is on parental leave for three months.

The TowerWise has two new interns providing technical and research support, analysis of energy and indoor environmental quality (IEQ) data required for key building retrofit design and evaluation, and investigation of measurement & verification strategies and equipment. Hamza Zaheer, Building Energy & Environmental Researcher, completed his Master's in Mechanical Engineering (with a graduate diploma in green energy) at the University of Waterloo. Mina Rizkalla, Building Energy & Environmental Researcher, recently graduated from Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toronto.

The interior renovation of TAF's premises at 75 Elizabeth Street is nearly complete! Work is ongoing in the washrooms, which required base-building work by the City, but we have temporary access to our neighbours' facilities. Staff moved back in December and we are all enjoying the brighter, refreshed and more functional space. The planned office warming party has been deferred until all the work is finished.

Compliance with Transfer Payment Agreement

This confirms that TAF is in compliance with the terms of the Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

The report on TAF's 2018 accomplishments (Item TA1.4) contains much of the information that would generally be summarized here and will not be repeated. Some updates from our work in January follows.

TransformTO

Two initiatives funded through TAF's TransformTO neighbourhood engagement stream are already producing valuable results. The first, provided to non-profit behavioural consulting group Enviromentum, examined the potential to leverage existing community hubs in neighbourhood improvement areas to animate climate action. The [study results](#) showed that the nine hubs consulted had a high level of interest in advancing local climate action, and already had ideas and initiatives underway that related to TransformTO strategy. The second initiative, now underway with leadership from the University of Toronto, will create an objective evaluation framework to critically assess engagement activity. The effort kicked off in late January 2019 attracting 15 community practitioners ready to be involved in the study. The group will build an evaluation framework together, which will then be implemented by University researchers. A final version of the evaluation will be created for future use by community practitioners, and results from evaluation of the first 15 projects will inform the City of Toronto's future engagement investment strategies.

TAF has recently prepared and released a public-facing [summary report](#) to share the results and implications of the City of Toronto's 2016 greenhouse gas inventory. This is the first time that a popular analysis of the report has been prepared for the Toronto public. The report immediately garnered attention through a [Toronto Star article](#).

TAF provided [commentary to the City of Toronto Budget Committee](#) meeting on February 7, 2019, outlining areas of support and concern related to the recommended 2019 budget expenditures and the longer-term budget outlook (2017 – 2020).

TowerWise

Toronto Community Housing has requested TAF undertake a second phase of retrofit measures at several of the buildings retrofitted during the last phase of TowerWise. The new measures would deepen the carbon reductions while further enhancing health and comfort for residents. Discussions are ongoing with a view towards initiating construction this summer.

Policy Development

TAF continues to be actively involved in the consultation process for the Clean Fuel Standard (CFS), a priority national policy that forms part of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. The aim of the CFS is to reduce Canada's GHG emissions by 30 MtCO₂eq annually by 2030 through regulating the carbon intensities of fuels for the transportation, building and industrial sectors. TAF developed a [detailed response](#) to the government's Regulator Design Paper and also led the development of a joint letter, signed by multiple stakeholders, which focused on key policy design recommendations.

In response to the consultation regarding the climate change section of Ontario's Environment Plan, TAF submitted [comments](#) including recommendations to:

- commit to ambitious, science-based targets for 2030 and 2050 to provide clear signals for industry and accelerate investment in climate action;
- design the Ontario Carbon Trust in a way that successfully leverages private capital towards low-carbon solutions;
- prioritize energy efficiency as the most cost-effective emissions reduction strategy for households and businesses; and
- support the transition towards a modern electricity system that promotes affordability for families and businesses.

TAF's input to the Federal Government's Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance has been influential – their Interim Report identified energy efficiency as a priority opportunity and directly mentioned TAF's work in this space. Our followup [comments](#) focused on the opportunities and barriers to scaling up investment in energy efficiency retrofits, and the role of both the public and private sector in mobilizing the capital required.

Communications

Q1 media profile has been excellent, with significant local reporting on our grant to the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce for an industrial waste heat recovery project. TAF designed and distributed an accessible [summary of the City of Toronto's 2016 GHG inventory](#) to demonstrate the leadership Toronto has taken on GHG reduction, and highlight the urgency and scale of change required to meet the 2030 and 2050 targets,

connecting them to the TransformTO goals and acceleration campaigns; this was profiled in a [Toronto Star article](#).

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