



Submission to the Toronto Board of Health

Re: HL26.5 – Planning for Climate Change Monitoring to Understand Health Impacts and

Date: July 6, 2025

For Our Kids Toronto welcomes the recommendations in agenda item HL26.5. As the climate crisis accelerates, it is critical to document the impacts of climate-induced events – including heat waves, wildfire smoke, flooding and insect-borne disease – on our health so that we can plan and protect our communities.

As an organization of parents, caregivers and adult allies who advocate for climate justice and a climate-safe future for all children, For Our Kids members are particularly concerned about the impacts of climate change on children’s young minds and bodies. We also recognize that children - particularly children in historically marginalized communities - are among those whose voices and experiences are too often overlooked.

We therefore offer the following recommendations to strengthen the proposal.

1. In relation to recommendation 1 to develop a public-facing monitoring dashboard, we would like to see a plan to share the dashboard with Toronto’s four school boards. For school boards, information about climate impacts on health could inform critical decisions about school operations and the protection of student and staff well-being.

Further, this information could also support the development of school climate action plans. The Toronto District School Board’s latest [climate action plan](#) includes a new focus on developing climate resilience. Regular communication between Toronto Public Health and the school boards on climate health impacts would support and advance school board climate planning and help to protect young people’s health.

2. In relation to the recommendation 2 that the Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health to partner with academics and community researchers, City divisions and others to assess the feasibility of qualitative and quantitative research on areas of human health where data sources do not currently exist, we would recommend that school boards be included as partner organizations. A [recent report](#) from Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and the Environment on the impacts of heat and indoor air quality on children’s health in classrooms and

childcare settings highlights the importance of assessing and addressing climate impacts on children's health in education settings. Given the particular vulnerability of children, we urge to TPH to develop a collaborative partnership with school boards to enable the collection of data on indoor temperature and air quality in schools and day cares.

We thank you for your attention to the impacts of climate change on health and look forward to future opportunities to support and advance this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Keary". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anne Keary
On behalf of For Our Kids Toronto