

October 27, 2025

To the Chair and Members  
Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
City of Toronto

Re: IE25.13 - High Pollution Days and Two Stroke Engines

I support Councillor Saxe's motion 100%. I have no problem with the amendments being proposed by the group, Gasbusters.

The air quality in my neighbourhood is poor, and I'm concerned about people's polluting habits.

Detrimental practices must be made to shift. Limiting two-stroke engine use and curtailing other polluting machinery is an obvious start.

But the City could go further.

There's usually a great deal of publicity generated by the announcement of a high risk Air Quality Health Index (AQI) reading. Typically, the media will relay the public health advice: stay indoors and avoid exertion. But could the City not add to this an advisory to not use the equipment referred to in Councillor Saxe's motion, and have that message fed to the press as well? Media outlets need talking points.

'Bad air' days then can become opportunities to instruct residents not to use this equipment, remind them about Toronto's one-minute limit on vehicular idling, suggest they not use fireplaces on high risk days, etc. The public health messages are important ones, but they do not tell the whole story, and they do nothing to "transform TO."

The Canadian Automobile Association tells its members, "Idling wastes fuel. Idling pollutes the air. Idling can damage your car's engine and exhaust system. Idling can damage your car's brakes."

CAA offers tips for avoiding idling:

- Turn off your engine when stopped for more than 60 seconds
- Drive your car to warm it up, rather than idling
- Avoid using your remote starter unless you're ready to drive
- Use a block heater to warm your engine before starting

The City could use communications and media relations to encourage the public to be mindful of activities that contribute to bad air.

Sincerely,

Sheila White  
Friends of Farquharson  
14 Murray Avenue  
Scarborough, ON M1S 2A2