



**Let's Make Waves**

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## **AWG Releases Long-Term Strategy for 39 Pools in TDSB**

*For Immediate Release – March 5, 2009 – Toronto, Ontario –* On March 4, 2009, the Toronto Lands Corporation issued its report on behalf of the Aquatics Working Group (AWG) regarding the *Long-Term Strategy for 39 pools in the Toronto District School Board*.

Let's Make Waves would like to recognize the Toronto District School Board for requesting in April 2008, that David Crombie, Chair of the Toronto Lands Corporation, work to propose a long-term sustainable solution for the continued use of the Board's pools.

Let's Make Waves would like to thank David Crombie for managing the Aquatics Working Group process and the development of the AWG report.

We would also like to thank the Province of Ontario, with special mention to Minister Kathleen Wynne and Minister Margaret Best, for providing the financial assistance to operate the pools for 2008/09 while a transition plan could be developed.

Let's Make Waves appreciates the comprehensive audit and recommendations proposed by the AWG report. Let's Make Waves will be evaluating the AWG report in detail, and consult with its members to determine if there are issues that need to be addressed, particularly:

- the continued absence of a Phase II Toronto Indoor Pool Aquatic Strategy which was requested for completion by November 2008. The Phase I Indoor Pool Aquatic Strategy was completed in 2004.
- the limited involvement of the City of Toronto in the proposed solutions despite the fact that the City offers 45% of its swimming programs in TDSB school pools serving 62,000 participants.
- if any of the pools designated for closure, or probation, have been sufficiently considered for community use
- if adequate consideration has been given to the educational component of aquatics, and why it is important in the TDSB curriculum
- the economic benefit of maintenance of aquatic facilities to allow for swimming to support the Provincial mandate to Healthy Living and Long Term Health

We remain committed to keeping pools open, and will continue our collective efforts to ensure that the recommendations outlined in the AWG report are implemented.

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### **ABOUT LET'S MAKE WAVES**

*Let's Make Waves* is a non-partisan coalition of parents, students, concerned citizens, and members of not-for-profit sports organizations from across the city of Toronto united by a common interest to save the TDSB pools from closing.

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