



January 12, 2012

Dear Executive Committee Members,

We are writing to ask you to reject staff recommendations for the 2012 budget to remove funding and eliminate City programming in seven of the leased TDSB pools. This recommendation repudiates ongoing negotiations between the City and the TDSB/Toronto Lands Corporation, is based on questionable data, considered no meaningful input from Toronto residents and ignores a promising revenue stream that is a good fit with the City's newly adopted user fee policy.

Pools in schools have been a longstanding part of Toronto's urban vision and were a deliberate decision by urban planners to make schools the centre of neighbourhoods. They represent our schools, communities and City functioning at their best. Moreover, as recently as August 2010 Council adopted the Stintz-Ford motion reaffirming this vision.

To ensure this partnership between the City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board continues we are requesting:

- (1) Removal of ALL seven pools (Bedford Park, Frankland, Gordon A. Brown, Hillcrest Community School, Runnymede Collegiate, Duke of Connaught/S.H. Armstrong and Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate) from the list of those to lose aquatic programming,
- (2) The City and the Toronto District School Board (through the Toronto Lands Corporation) work together until a strategy/agreement regarding long term sustainable funding has been secured,
- (3) A third party engineering/architectural review of all 33 TDSB City leased pools,
- (4) Oversight of the process by the Aquatic Working Group to ensure there is community participation and the needs of all of those affected are addressed.

Just over three years ago the Aquatics Working Group engaged Toronto residents with an interest in swimming, aquatics and water safety to address the threatened closure of 39 TDSB owned and operated pools. This resulted in a commitment of \$15.8 MM for capital repairs and improvement programs to 31 TDSB pools as well as increased pool users and permit revenue growing from \$300 K to over \$1 MM over a two year period and usage and revenue continue to grow! Sound fiscal management and policy making requires that a similar process be attempted before effectively closing pools which are valuable community resources.

The loss of these pools would have a tremendous impact on our students, neighbourhoods and the larger community. It is extremely important that a vision for the future of the pools and necessary steps are developed in order to ensure these community assets are not wasted.

Sincerely,

Let's Make Waves  
[www.letsmakewaves.ca](http://www.letsmakewaves.ca)