



[www.letsmakewaves.ca](http://www.letsmakewaves.ca)

April 22, 2009

Chair Campbell and Trustees of the Board:

*Let's Make Waves* is strongly urging the TDSB Trustees to vote in favor of accepting the recommendations contained within the *TDSB Response to the Aquatics Working Group Report - "Long Term Strategy for 39 Pools in the Toronto District School Board"*. We don't believe however that the recommendations go far enough.

- 1) With the Province providing capital funding, the door has opened for other parties – both public and private – to come forward with operational funding knowing that pools will be brought into a state of good repair. As we all know from the AWG report, the revised costs for operating these pools is less than half of what the TDSB believed them to be a year ago.
- 2) We know the Province has been deliberately vague on the capital dollar amount promised, because they are waiting to see how the Board votes tonight. It is in everyone's long-term best interest to keep all 39 pools open while you have the capital dollars to fix them. Seize this timely opportunity!
- 3) *Let's Make Waves* will continue to put pressure on the City to work together with the TDSB to provide operational funding support for these pools if you demonstrate the leadership to keep them open. The AWG report states there are 11,750 non-TDSB permitted hours committed to these 39 pools, beginning this September. We believe it is the City's obligation to meet the recreational aquatics needs of its residents, and those needs are currently being met by permit users within many of the 39 school pools.
- 4) The TDSB needs to show intent and good faith, when dealing with the City and the Province, between now and June to not close the 19 other viable pools. Cooperative work can begin to find a solution, and encourage the pursuit of sponsorships and incremental permit opportunities.
- 5) The TDSB needs to review in which of the 19 schools, the pools are needed for timetabling and curriculum. A plan needs to be in place by June 2009, if a pool is needed for timetabling and will be closed, how its mandate for Health and Physical Education will be delivered. There is no resolution for this unmet need.

We understand you are under tremendous immediate pressure to balance your finite budget this year. We understand you now realize the cost savings, and decreased operations revenue from the provincial funding formula, that could come from closing the pools are not as dramatic as you had originally hoped. If you demonstrate the political will to succeed in this issue, trust that the community will advocate hard in your defense for the operation dollars to materialize. We need you to demonstrate strong leadership tonight.

*Let's Make Waves* will categorically not accept a resolution to save only 13 high revenue pools tonight. This type of decision shows a myopic view of the history of this file, and of the opportunity before you. Many pools can be viable under a management structure that seeks to maximize permit revenues. You must give these community assets the opportunity to flourish under a new structure. Do the right thing tonight.

You now have a new funding source before you, and an avenue to demonstrate lateral thinking and progressive leaders. Seize it tonight and we will be at your side.

***Let's Make Waves***