



DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION
Environment

TO: Chair and Members of the Community & Corporate Services Committee
SUBJECT: 2004 Smog Summit

Report Number: CORPSERV 2/04 **Report Date:** May 14, 2004
Author(s): Lynn Robichaud **Date to Committee:** June 2, 2004
Telephone: 905-335-7600 **Ext.** 7931 **Date to Council:** June 14, 2004
Ward(s) Affected: 1 2 3 4 5 6 All **File Number(s):** 210-06

APPROVALS: _____
Department Head General Manager City Manager

To be completed by the Clerks Department

Committee Disposition & Comments

01- Approved 02 - Not Approved 03 - As Amended 04 - Referred 05 - Deferred 06 - Received & Filed 07 - Withdrawn

Council Disposition & Comments

01- Approved 02 - Not Approved 03 - As Amended 04 - Referred 05 - Deferred 06 - Received & Filed 07 - Withdrawn

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Mayor or designate be authorized to attend the 2004 Smog Summit hosted by the GTA Clean Air Council on June 21st, 2004, and sign the Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air on behalf of the City of Burlington.

2.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding the 2004 Smog Summit and to recommend that the City participate in the Summit on June 21st, 2004.

3.0 BACKGROUND:

An invitation has been received by the Mayor to participate in the 2004 Smog Summit at Metro Hall on June 21st, 2004. The Summit is organized by the GTA Clean Air Council, an inter-governmental working group of which the City of Burlington is a member.

The GTA Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC) was established following the Toronto 2000 Smog Summit and provides an opportunity for local municipalities to network on important air quality issues and initiatives as well as discuss these issues with other levels of government. It allows members to explore opportunities for joint initiatives to reduce air pollution in the GTA and related health risks. A presentation on the GTA-CAC was made to the Community Development Committee by Eva Ligeti, Executive Director, The Clean Air Partnership, on April 19th, 2004.

Councillor Lougheed has attended the past two Smog Summits, signing the Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air on behalf of the City of Burlington to show its commitment for improving air quality.

4.0 DISCUSSION:

On June 21st, 2004, political representatives from all levels of government within the GTA will gather to publicly sign an Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air, to report on progress made since last year's Summit, and to announce new initiatives for government action to reduce smog. The Declaration will include a 'Joint Call for Action' by the municipal participants on a number of issues. These action items are summarized in Appendix A.

As the participating representative for the City of Burlington, the Mayor (or designate) will be asked to participate in a roundtable forum with participating government representatives to discuss current air quality issues. An opportunity will also be provided to participants to highlight clean air initiatives undertaken by their municipality.

A progress report on 2003 action items undertaken by the City of Burlington and the GTA CAC will be submitted to Council in late summer.

5.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS: N/A

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Smog, a bi-product of hot, sunny days, is a combination of airborne pollutants that affect our health and our natural environment. Members of our community that are especially susceptible to smog include children, seniors, and people with asthma, heart, and lung conditions. The most harmful pollutants are ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter that can enter our lungs. These contaminants come from the combustion of fossil fuels in our vehicles, power plants, factory boilers, and homes. They are also released through industrial processes, the evaporation of liquid fuels, and the use of solvents and other volatile products, such as oil-based paints.

Working with the GTA Clean Air Council provides an opportunity to effect change in environmental policies at local and senior levels of government.

7.0 COMMUNICATION MATTERS:

Staff will work with Corporate Communications to coordinate the communications associated with the City's participation in the 2004 Smog Summit.

8.0 CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the City once again participate in the upcoming Smog Summit so that we may continue to work with our municipal, provincial, and federal partners to address this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud
Sr. Environmental Co-ordinator
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Appendices:

A. Summary of Action Items for the 2004 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air

Staff / Others Consulted:

Name	Telephone
Environmental Management Team Air Quality Initiatives Team Anti-idling Team Burlington Sustainable Development Committee Halton Partners for Clean Air	

Notifications:

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Burlington Sustainable Development Committee Halton Partners for Clean Air	jasb@region.halton.on.ca

Special Instructions:

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APPENDIX A

Preliminary Summary of Action Items for the Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air

On June 21st, 2004, elected officials from municipalities across the GTA, and the provincial and federal governments, will gather in Toronto to sign the Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air. A copy of the 2003 Declaration is available on the website for the GTA Clean Air Partnership at www.smogsummit.org.

The following is a draft summary of preliminary action items under consideration by the GTA Clean Air Council to be incorporated into the Declaration on Clean Air. A final copy of the Declaration will be presented at the Smog Summit.

GTA Clean Air Council Action Items:

1. Develop the Clean Air web site, a web-based clearing house of public information materials on smog, air quality, climate change, and the related health and environmental impacts.
2. Identify opportunities for member organizations to implement energy efficiency measures and improve building energy performance for new construction projects.
3. Explore the benefits of adopting an Energy Star corporate procurement policy.
4. Explore options for corporate green fleets strategies.
5. Support community idle-free campaigns & develop model anti-idling practices/policies.
6. Promote the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air program.
7. Promote the co-benefits of reducing smog and greenhouse gas emissions.
8. Evaluate the effectiveness of municipal emissions reduction measures and actions, and share best practices, through the development of a Model Clean Air Plan.
9. Further study the most effective methods to implement urban heat island mitigation strategies.
10. Explore opportunities to share data for GTA-wide air quality modelling.
11. Promote the benefits of reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips.
12. Promote the development and use of green power.