A SET OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE TORONTO HARBOUR AND THE TORONTO HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

GOAL: The goal of a set of environmental principals and procedures would be the elimination of contaminants, toxic and non-toxic, into the Toronto Harbour and Lake Ontario. The fulfilment of this goal is necessary to reduce the damage to the ecosystem and to protect public health. In adopting a set of environmental principals and procedures, the Toronto Harbour Commissioners would be taking a leadership role in the environmental issues of the greater harbour area. It should be noted that they would also be taking an important step in protecting the value of T.H.C. properties.

LAKEFILLING has been necessary in the construction of various T.H.C. projects (The Leslie Street Spit). It has also provided a convenient and cheap method for the disposal of excavated materials from downtown Toronto. But a significant proportion of this material is contaminated with heavy metals, PCB's, oils and grease and other chemicals that can enter Lake Ontario. Environmentally, it would be best if the practice of lakefilling was discontinued. At the very least it should be minimized and no lakefilling should be permitted unless:

a) All fill material is proven to be clean; and

b) There is no loss of material to the lake.

SEVERAL other principals could be taken from the letter to the Toronto Harbour Commissioners from Ald. Dale Martin (dated Jan. 29, 1988). They could follow the themes of accountability, consultation, cooperation, leadership, and environmental advocacy.

ACCOUNTABILITY The T.H.C. could include within its planning process a mechanism that would allow for public input. This mechanism could take any number of forms but it should allow for maximum participation. The Harbour Commissioners could allow the public to participate in the making of the operational plan for the East Headland and Endikement project each year.

The T.H.C. should follow, as closely as possible, the plans that are annually written: the engineering plans vary too much from year to year; commitments, timetables, long term plans, etc., are not followed; the planning process is not as successful as it should be. For example, the 1987 Operating Plan calls for an end to lakefilling by 1992; this objective should be fulfilled without delay.

CONSULTATION The T.H.C. should consult more with environmental groups, the M.O.E., other waterfront agencies, the public, etc., in working towards a better environment for the harbour.

COOPERATION The T.H.C. should cooperate with other waterfront actors and with those interested in a better environment for the harbour.

LEADERSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY It is in the interest of the T.H.C. to be an environmental advocate. The best way to show its advocacy would be in a leadership role- in a role that the Toronto Harbour desperately needs.

THIS SET OF PRINCIPALS AND PROCEDURES represents only a starting point for discussion.

By - [redacted] #23

- Harbour Commissioner
- Harbourfront
- MTRCA

TO: TORONTO HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

FROM: DALE MARTIN, COMMISSIONER

RE: ENVIROMENTAL CONCERNS OF THE TORONTO HARBOUR COMMISSION

In past years the Toronto Harbour Commission's annual operating plan for the East Headland and Endikement project has been criticized by enviromental groups. These groups - Stop Contaminating Our Waterfront (S.C.O.W.), Friends of the Spit, and others have very real concerns about the disposal and lake filling operations on the Leslie Street Spit. It is both possible and advantageous for the Commissioners to work with these environmental groups in solving environmental problems in and around the harbour, including those resulting from the East Headland and Endikement project. As a Federal Commission it is in the best interests of the T.H.C. to consider the views of concerned citizens. As an owner and leasor of valuable land it is in the best interest of the T.H.C. to be environmentally conscious. As caretaker for Toronto Harbour it is arguably a part of the T.H.C.'s mandate to protect and enhance the quality of water in Toronto's harbour.

After meeting with some of the spokepersons of our city's environmental community I am able to voice some of their concerns to you. In relation to the T.H.C.'s annual operating plans the groups would like to make the following recommendations:

1) that the T.H.C. include within its planning process a mechanism that would allow for public input. This mechanism could take any number of forms but it should allow for maximum participation.

2) that the T.H.C. supply a copy of the annual plan to concerned citizens and groups each year in time for input to be given on the plan.

3) that the T.H.C. follow, as closely as possible, the plans that are annually written: the engineering plans vary too much from year to year, commitments, timetables, long term planning, etc. are not followed, the planning process is not as successful as it should be.

4) In this regard, the T.H.C. report on the progress of operations in the context of the annual operating plan. This could be done quarterly, or even monthly.

5) The T.H.C. not initiate any development projects that might further delay the completion and stabilization date of the Leslie Street Spit (as the outer harbour marina project has), by diverting fill.

6) that the T.H.C. study the problem of the spit as a disposal site (downtown developers will always be lobbying the T.H.C. for further dumping facilities; a more permanent landfill site must be found to accomodate this need when the spit has been completed).

7) that the T.H.C. work harder to accomodate Harbour organizations who need to dispose of non-navigational dredgeate.

In general, it is the view of these groups, a view that they share, that the T.H.C. should take a leadership role in the environmental issues of the greater Harbour area. The T.H.C. must become an environmental advocate. In pursuit of this objective, the T.H.C. should adopt a set of environmental principles and procedures for the Toronto Harbour as well as an environmental agenda. The T.H.C. must become a main player in the development of the Waterfront Remedial Action Plan currently under consideration by the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments. These recommendations do not represent all of the concerns which environmental groups have but they do represent a good starting point for discussion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,