

From: [Toronto Sports Council](#)

Reconvening the Aquatics Working Group (AWG) – Please join us!

Monday, September 12, 2011

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Metro Central YMCA, 20 Grosvenor Street (Auditorium)

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the City of Toronto have started discussions regarding the future of the 33 pools the City currently leases from the TDSB. The City lease expires in 2011.

In early 2010 the AWG successfully made-the-case for keeping open 32 of 39 pools that had previously been designated for closure. We hope to apply the lessons we learned through that process to help shape the future of these additional 33 pools. To enable this work we're happy to announce that the Toronto Sports Council and Let's Make Waves were successful at securing support from the Heart & Stroke Foundation to continue advocacy efforts on behalf of our pools. In addition, Canon Design has committed to supporting the AWG in the development of an Aquatic Framework that will include all pools in the City of Toronto.

David Crombie, Chair of the AWG, will be hosting the meeting on Monday, September 12th that will continue the AWG's focus on developing a strategy for strengthening the connection between Toronto pools and their local communities. Some Pool Captains have already been identified, and we're hoping those with experience on the AWG can connect with the people that are new to the process.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR YOU:

1. Are you planning on attending the AWG meeting on September 12? **Please let us know by [replying to this email as soon as possible](#).**
2. **If you are unable to attend**, please let us know if you ARE interested in remaining in the AWG database and receiving regular AWG updates. **Again, please do this by replying to this email.**
3. For those of you who have volunteered to serve as a Pool Captain (or in some cases Co-Captain) please also let us know through a reply to this email.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Swim Toronto (Linda Pietrangelo), or AWG facilitators Karen Pitre or Nicole Swerhun (all copied here).

Also please forward this email to anyone you think may be interested – participation in the AWG is open to all.

Looking forward to continuing our work with you,
Karen Pitre and Nicole Swerhun
AWG Facilitators

SOME BACKGROUND ON WHY WE NEED LOCAL POOL CAPTAINS

What the AWG learned in 2008-2010:

- **When communities know their local school has a pool**, and when the cost of using that pool is reasonable, it's possible to significantly increase the community demand for use of the pool (and therefore also significantly increase permit revenues.
- **Not all pools are the same**, and not all pool users have the same needs. We can make the best and most use of TDSB pools if we make an effort to understand and match the different characteristics of each pool with the unique needs of different user groups.
- **Things take time** – permit revenues increased almost 3 fold due to the AWG's work, but things don't change overnight. Pools need a long term plan.