



## Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

130 Spadina Avenue, Suite 301 Toronto, ON M5V 2L4

April 29, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment has over 6,000 members across Canada. We work to protect human health by protecting the planet.

We are concerned about the TDSB's proposal to install synthetic turf at Central Technical School. Our primary concern involves the health and environmental hazards of this turf, which will impact not just Central Tech students and the community in Harbord Village, but also much of Toronto, as the TDSB is planning other synthetic turf sports fields and playgrounds throughout the city.

Our concern is that a synthetic turf using tire crumb rubber infill can be expected to:

- 1) Create a mix of toxic gasses and carbon black -- which young players may breathe -- and add heavy metals, tire crumb and plastic shards to storm water run-off.
- 2) Leach known carcinogens and heavy metals like lead, cadmium, zinc, arsenic, and selenium.
- 3) Create a higher injury rate for players.
- 4) Become very hot in the summer and increase players' risk of heat rash, exhaustion, and potentially heat stroke.
- 5) Increase the Heat Island Effect in downtown Toronto.

Sincerely,

Gideon Forman  
Executive Director

#### References:

--Dr. David Brown, Director of Public Health Toxicology, EHHS, and Doctor of Science in Physiology and Toxicology, Harvard School of Public Health; "Artificial Turf: A. Troubling Perspective", September 2012

-- Dr. Phillip Landrigan, Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Children's Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai Medical School, New York; "Artificial Turf: What are the Risks?" September 2011