

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2011

SUBJECT: ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION –
2011 ARNOLD DEVLIN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

INFORMATION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission recognize the Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention presentation of the 2011 Arnold Devlin Community Service Award to the TTC for outstanding leadership in suicide prevention.

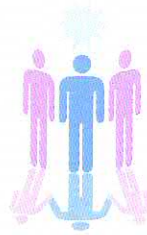
BACKGROUND

The 2011 Arnold Devlin Community Service Award for outstanding leadership in suicide prevention was presented to the TTC on September 9, 2011 at the “Journeys from Suicide: Living to Die; Dying to Live” conference co-hosted by the Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention and the Arthur Sommer Rotenberg Chair in Suicide Studies and Suicide Studies Research Unit at St. Michael’s Hospital. The conference was held in honour of World Suicide Prevention Day at St. Michael’s Hospital. The award recognizes the TTC’s long-standing commitment to suicide prevention through its Gatekeeper Training Program, research into Acute Psychological Trauma and more recently its partnership with Bell Canada and Toronto Distress Centres to launch Crisis Link support for passengers in crisis.

October 3, 2011

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Attachment – Letter from the Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention



Ontario Association
for Suicide Prevention

August 10th, 2011

Mr. G. Webster
Chief General Manager
Toronto Transit Commission
1900 Yonge Street
7th Floor
Toronto, ON M4S 1Z1

Dear Mr. Webster,

On behalf of the Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention, it is my great pleasure to announce that the Toronto Transit Commission is the recipient of the 2011 Arnold Devlin Community Service Award for its outstanding leadership in suicide prevention.

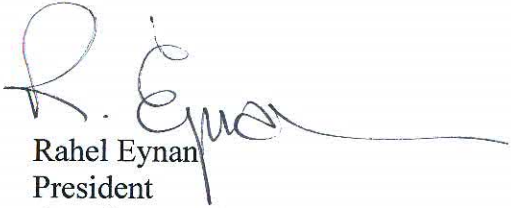
This Award was established in 2008 in memory of Arnold Devlin, a former Chairperson of the Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention. Through his personal and professional actions, Arnold was a leader in raising suicide prevention awareness and was an influential advocate with government and service providers.

Throughout the years, the Toronto Transit Commission has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their initiatives in suicide prevention. Some of these initiatives include an employee awareness campaign, the gatekeeper suicide prevention training, and the Crisis Link program. The TTC was the first transit system, worldwide, to implement a gatekeeper suicide prevention training program for its employees. This initiative is serving as a model for other transit systems around the world to replicate. The new program, Crisis Link, that was recently launched by the TTC, provides dedicated crisis phones in subway stations allowing distressed patrons to connect with counsellors at the Toronto Distress Centre. With this initiative, TTC is the first transit system in North America to offer immediate help to patrons in distress. In addition, the Crisis Link program's subway posters raise public awareness and decrease the stigma associated with suicide and help seeking. These posters mark the first time the word suicide is used in the Toronto subway system. Such proactive measures demonstrate vision and outstanding leadership in suicide prevention efforts.

The Arnold Devlin Community Service Award will be presented on September 9, 2011 at a conference titled: **Journeys from Suicide: "Living to Die, Dying to Live."** The conference is a collaborative effort between the Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention and the Arthur Sommer Rotenberg Chair in Suicide Studies and Suicide Studies Research Unit at St. Michael's Hospital. The conference will be held in honour

of World Suicide Prevention Day at St. Michael's Hospital. The Awards ceremony will take place at 12:30 PM.

Please accept our congratulations and gratitude for your dedication and outstanding efforts in suicide prevention.



Rahel Eynan
President
Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention

cc: Mr. John O'Grady, Chief Safety Officer, Toronto Transit Commission

