

July 9, 2012

Mr. Tim Yoo
Eco Cleaners
719 Mount Pleasant Road
Toronto, Ontario M4S 2N4

Dear Mr. Yoo,

The Toronto Environmental Alliance applauds Eco Cleaners for their outstanding efforts in providing a toxic-free dry cleaning service to Torontonians.

Eco Cleaners has been a longtime supporter of Toronto's right to know about harmful chemicals that we are exposed to in our neighbourhoods, workplaces and through our consumer products and services. Back in 2008, Eco Cleaners helped our city pass the first Community Right to Know by-law in Canada, which requires businesses like dry cleaners and auto body shops to report their use and release of 25 harmful substances. Tetrachloroethylene, also known as perchloroethylene or 'perc' for short, is one of the substances prioritized by Toronto Public Health because it is a suspected carcinogen that is widely used in the conventional dry cleaning sector. It is primarily a toxic air contaminant but it can also contaminate groundwater if disposed of improperly.

There are a number of ways to reduce exposures and releases of tetrachloroethylene, but the best way to prevent pollution and prevent cancer is to switch to non-toxic alternatives. Eco Cleaners has done just that. By choosing a toxic-free and petroleum-free dry cleaning process, Eco Cleaners has eliminated the need for harmful substances altogether. Most importantly, switching to a non-toxic alternative to tetrachloroethylene safeguards the health of employees working in the dry cleaning business, who are directly handling and breathing in this substance on a daily basis. That said, Eco Cleaners has more than their own health in mind; they are improving the health of their customers, the neighbourhood and our environment.

Eco Cleaners is an environmental leader that puts human health and the environment ahead of profits. Toronto Environmental Alliance would like to see more dry cleaners in Toronto follow in the footsteps of Eco Cleaners.

Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,



Heather Marshall
Toxics Campaigner