

Community Associations Forum on Environmental Sustainability

CAFES Ottawa

June 19, 2015

Mayor Jim Watson
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1

Via email: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Dear Mayor Watson,

Re: Trees and Forest Management

Trees and forests are a vital yet threatened feature of Ottawa's landscape. The emerald ash borer has destroyed 20-25% of our urban canopy and urban growth has not adequately protected and enhanced the "green infrastructure" represented by trees and forests within city boundaries.

Given this situation, we welcome the City's decision to develop a forest management strategy tailored to the needs of both urban and rural parts of Ottawa. In our view, development of the strategy would benefit from:

- adequate notice and transparent consultation with citizens, community associations and others among the public with expertise in tree and greenspace protection in Ottawa;
- inclusion of a systematic review of best practices in urban forestry in other Canadian and northern European cities with similar ecosystems;
- deliberation and coordination within and between different parts of the city administration (Forestry Services, the Building Permit process, Infrastructure Services, Urban Planning, Hydro, etc.);
- consideration of the contribution of trees and forests to implementation and funding for the City of Ottawa's Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan. **Note: 2014 TD Bank study values benefit of trees to City of Toronto at more than \$7B, (<http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/UrbanForests.pdf>);**
- planting only trees that are not invasive species and are native to Ottawa and eastern Ontario and the deliberate mixing of species on our streetscapes so we have no more solid lines of one species such as happened with the White Elm (eliminated by Dutch Elm disease) and White and Green Ash (eliminated by Emerald Ash Borer).

We look forward to contributing to this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Liz Bernstein/ Pat O'Brien, Co-organizers Community Associations Forum on Environmental Sustainability (CAFES)

CAFES Ottawa members endorsing this letter:

Action sandy Hill

Centretown Citizens Community Association

Champlain Park Community Association

Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association

Dalhousie Community Association

Ecology Ottawa

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital

Hintonburg Community Association

Lowertown Community Association

Old Ottawa South Community Association

Ottawa East Community Association

Riverview Park Community Association

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

cc: Members of Council