

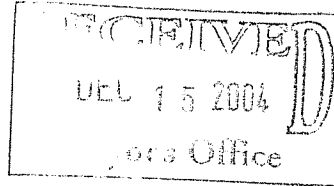


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12-12430(12)

Tree Canada Foundation
Fondation canadienne de l'arbre
www.tcf-fca.ca

Trées de leur part / Leifs de ours / Les arbres font leur part / Faisons l'unifra

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
City of Halifax
P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5



Your Worship;

Re: Adoption of a Resolution on Conservation of Urban Forests

The Tree Canada Foundation is asking your council's support in adopting a resolution on the conservation of urban forests. Over the last 12 years, Tree Canada has been actively promoting the conservation of our urban forest through our popular Green Streets Canada program, climate change initiatives, and school ground greening activities. We recently provided funds under our Hurricane ReLeaf fund to your city, and in 1994 Halifax was a Green Streets Canada winner.

We have worked with over 300 Canadian Municipalities and 1400 community groups in helping raise awareness on the social, economic, cultural and environmental values of our urban forests. A resolution from your council would provide the impetus to the National Forest Strategy 2003-08 objective 6- *The Urban Forest and Public Engagement in Sustainability* (www.nfsc.forest.ca) requirement to develop and implement a national urban forest strategy.

A similar resolution on the conservation of urban forests was adopted at the June 2004 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) meeting in Edmonton. A copy of the FCM resolution is attached along with a proposed draft resolution. Both documents speak to the importance of our urban forests to the public health and well-being and call on the federal Government to consider a more proactive role in urban forest leadership in Canada.

I am asking your council's support in adopting a similar resolution to our proposal on the conservation of urban forests and join a growing list of municipalities like Ottawa, Windsor, Oakville, Langley and others in supporting the conservation of our urban forests.

Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Jeff Monty, R.P.F., CAE
President

Tree Canada acknowledges the financial support of Natural Resources Canada.
La Fondation reconnaît le soutien financier de Ressources naturelles Canada.

Policy & Development Book
FCM 67th Annual Conference and Municipal Expo
Edmonton, Alberta
May 28, 2004.

March 1, 2004

ENV04.2.06
A FEDERAL ROLE IN URBAN FORESTRY

WHEREAS the urban forest improves air quality, cools city streets, acts as a windbreak, shades UV rays, and contains storm water, as well as beautifying our cities;

WHEREAS the federal government does not currently include urban forestry in its mandate;

WHEREAS exotic pests like the Asian Longhorn Beetle represent a growing threat to the urban forest and require a national response;

WHEREAS municipalities do not have the funding, nor is it efficient, for them to conduct independent research into tree planting, appropriate species, and disease control; and

WHEREAS there are excellent international examples of the benefits of centralized urban forest research, such as the USDA Forest Service and the European Urban Forestry Research and Information Centre;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the federal government to take a leadership role in promoting urban forestry, protecting urban forests, and conducting research into the urban forest.

City of Ottawa, ON

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Category "A"; Concurrence

2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DECISION: Passed

PROMOTING THE CONSERVATION OF URBAN FORESTS

DRAFT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The City of xxx is working with the Tree Canada Foundation to promote the need for a national urban forest strategy that will promote the conservation and creation of urban forest areas; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that better management practices will increase overall health and robustness of urban forests through comprehensive planning and joint implementation efforts; and

WHEREAS, The City of xxxx recognizes that conserving existing urban forests as well as increasing "tree cover" to create robust urban forests representing the environmental health quality of cities; and

WHEREAS, urban forests are essential to improving ecological services that include providing natural habitat for flora and fauna, controlling sedimentation and water runoff from non point sources, mitigating carbon sequestration to improve air quality and conserving energy by reducing the urban heat index; and

WHEREAS, urban forests have also demonstrated the ability to increase the genetic diversity of wildlife and pollination of important crops for agricultural production through the protection and creation of green corridors; and

WHEREAS, urban forests also hold the potential to remediate environmentally contaminated properties, called brownfields, through phytoremediation technology returning those sites to productive reuse; and

WHEREAS, urban forests provide green infrastructure for cities linking communities to recreational areas and greenspaces, improving the quality of life for residents and allowing residents to take an active role in planting, protecting and restoring forest areas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The City of xxxxx encourages it to work more closely with the Tree Canada Foundation through partnerships to craft comprehensive planning approaches in reversing urban forest tree decline by maintaining existing tree stocks and planting new trees in "low cover areas"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of xxxx strongly encourages federal and provincial governments to work in cooperation with local mayors to promote local community action in sustaining urban forests and creating a network of best practices and projects aimed at other areas throughout the country to adopt, thereby preventing urban forest decline and ensuring future sustainability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of XXX calls upon the Prime Minister and Parliament to include funding for urban and community forestry programs and the development and implementation of a national urban forest strategy that encourage community cost share grants, urban forest research and assistance for underserved communities that may be challenged with stewardship issues.



Tree Canada Foundation

Very simply put — we were established in 1992 as a not-for-profit, charitable organization. We provide education, technical assistance, resources and financial support to help Canadians care for trees.

From backyards to school yards, downtown to suburbs, city to country — Tree Canada Foundation helps trees take root and grow from coast to coast to coast!

We are managed by a volunteer Board of Directors, a staff of four and a network of Technical Advisers and provincial affiliates. The Foundation relies on the support of volunteers and environmental organizations to get its work done. Since 1993, the Foundation has:

- ◆ planted over 75 million urban and rural trees potentially sequestering over 58 million tonnes of CO₂
- ◆ greened over 300 schoolyards across Canada
- ◆ delivered five Canadian Urban Forest Conferences to forest professionals and organizations



- ◆ received funding from over 60 of Canada's top corporate citizens and governmental organizations
- ◆ produced material on: how trees counter climate change, Canada's arboreal emblems, programs for schools and more!



Trees do their part Let's do ours!

You can get involved in one of our many programs:

Climate Change — plant trees to offset the harmful effects of carbon dioxide emissions. Or go neutral — be a company or organization that plants as many trees as the carbon dioxide it emits. Or host a carbon neutral event. That's something to brag about!

Greening Canada's School Grounds — make the grade and improve your school ground. It's a great learning opportunity for kids, families and communities to improve learning by making their schoolyard a "living classroom".

Green Streets Canada — improve municipal forests by working with residents, municipalities and interested groups.

Sponsored Tree Planting — businesses and organizations can sponsor tree activities across the country in keeping with their marketing strategy and environmental targets.

Urban Forestry — The Foundation provides leadership in promoting strategic urban forest planning, technical advice and the Canadian Urban Forest Conference.

Tree Trivia

- ◆ trees reduce the effects of global warming — 12 trees will, over their lives, absorb 1.9 tonnes of carbon, the same amount of carbon produced by an SUV going 20,000 km
- ◆ trees conserve energy by reducing heating and cooling costs by up to 50%
- ◆ trees are the "lungs of the earth" by absorbing carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone and other pollutants
- ◆ trees give people a psychological boost — studies show they make us feel good
- ◆ trees can increase property values by 20%, help instill civic pride and boost tourism
- ◆ trees give wildlife a place to live
- ◆ trees reduce water run-off and keep streams clean — 1 large tree can lift 378 litres (100 gallons) of water out of the ground and discharge it into the air each day

For more information:
Tree Canada Foundation,
220 Laurier Ave. W., Suite 750
Ottawa, ON K1P 5Z9
Tel: 613-567-5545
email: tcf@treecanada.ca
www.tcf-fca.ca

