



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Peterborough Environmental Advisory Committee**

**From:** **Michael Papadacos, Manager of Infrastructure Management Division**

**Meeting Date:** **March 17, 2021**

**Subject:** **Report PEAC21-013  
Urban Forest – Tree By-Law Follow Up**

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## **Purpose**

A report to follow up with PEAC on the January 20, 2021 discussion of the regulatory framework to protect and enhance the tree canopy of the City's urban forest, and obtain the Committee's support for a By-law that regulates the removal of healthy trees on private property in the City of Peterborough.

## **Recommendation**

That the PEAC approve the recommendation outlined in Report PEAC21-013 dated March 17, 2021 of the Manager of Infrastructure Management Division, as follows:

- a) That the Peterborough Environmental Advisory Committee supports, in principle, the need for a By-law that regulates the removal of healthy trees on private property; and,
- b) That responsibility for compensation of removed healthy trees is shared by the property owner and the Municipality to enhance and protect the urban forest canopy given its role in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and other environmental, social and cultural benefits for residents.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

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## Background

At the PEAC meeting held on January 20, 2021, the committee was presented with the draft regulatory framework for a future by-law that will regulate the removal of healthy trees on private property within the City of Peterborough. The framework was developed based on the Guiding Principles approved by Council through the recommendations in Report IPSIM20-004 – Urban Forest Canopy Conservation Update, dated July 6, 2020, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services.

This follow up report is intended to provide the Committee the opportunity to express its support, in principle, for Council adopting a By-law that establishes a compensatory framework that is shared by the property owners and the Municipality. This would recognize the importance of establishing a compensation mechanism to reverse the declining trend in the urban forest canopy cover within the City of Peterborough given the important role it plays in mitigating climate change (i.e., absorbing carbon dioxide), and its role in adapting to the impacts of climate change (i.e., reducing the heat island effect and mitigating stormwater runoff).

The recommendations of this report if approved, will be included in staff's report to Council.

Submitted by,

Michael Papadacos  
Manager, Infrastructure Management Division

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