

June 28, 2007

To: Parks and Environment Committee

From: City Clerk, Parks and Environment Committee

Subject: Tree Canopy

Background

The Executive Committee, at its June 25, 2007 made various recommendations to Council on the tree canopy as part of a Climate Change Action Plan. An extract of the Executive Committee's recommendations follows for the Parks and Environment Committee's information.

Extract from June 25, 2007 Executive Committee Decision Document
Item EX10.3 - Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan: Moving from Framework to Action

RE: PROGRAM FUNDING

3. City Council endorse an additional \$1 million for Tree Planting and Green Roof Initiatives to be funded from the Water Stabilization Reserve, in order to enhance retainment of rainwater and thereby reduce surface run-off and assist in the achievement of the climate change and clean air targets;
 - 3i. *80 percent of the funds referred to in Recommendation 3. be allocated to the City of Toronto Tree Advocacy 2007 program to begin work this year for tree planting on public lands;*
 - 3ii. *20 percent of the funds referred to in Recommendation 3. be allocated to a community tree planting organization (or organizations) with a proven track record of successful tree planting on private property and that to do this the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B, will issue public call for applications from community organizations with a proven track record of successful planting on private property and be authorized and actually award the funds by September 2007;*
 - 3iii. *the successful community organization (or organizations) submit a financial statement and progress report every six months and at completion for review and possible audit. Those community organizations, in making their submissions during a public call, are required to identify the stormwater benefits obtained from proceeding with their respective tree planting projects and that, if the program is over subscribed, preference will be given to those submissions that provide the greatest benefits to the management of stormwater; and*
 - 3iv. *that a sum no greater than \$100,000.00 be set aside to administer this initiative by Forestry.*

RE: DOUBLE THE TREE CANOPY

10. City Council confirm its commitment to double the tree canopy from 17% to 34% and that City Council:
 - a. establish the Tree Planting and Partnership Program, in partnership with community organizations, schools, business improvement areas and volunteers, in order to expand resources for the planting, maintenance and care of trees;
 - b. direct the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to submit in 2007 a report to the Parks and Environment Committee that addresses:
 - i. steps that will be taken to increase tree plantings in the short-term;
 - ii. strategic planning steps to achieve the goal of doubling the tree canopy by 2050;
 - iii. the requirements for data collection and management and modelling;
 - iv. projected operating and capital budget requirements; and
 - v. engagement of stakeholders through a Urban Forest Tree Canopy Steering Committee;

City Clerk

Helen Smith/hls
Item PE7.1