



# Suzan Hall

City Councillor  
Ward 1 – North Etobicoke

City Hall  
100 Queen Street West, Suite C54  
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2  
Telephone: 416-392-0205  
Facsimile: 416-696-4207

Constituency Office  
996 Albion Road  
Toronto, Ontario, M9V 1A6  
Telephone: 416-392-4255  
Email: councillor\_hall@toronto.ca

## MEMO

**Date:** November 5, 2007

**To:** Councillor Paula Fletcher  
Chair, Parks and Environment Committee

**From:** Councillor Suzan Hall

**CC:** Mayor David Miller  
Members, Budget Committee  
Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
Joe Pantalone, Tree Advocate

**Re:** **Budget Increase to Forestry Operations**

---

A common complaint that all constituents share is the amount of time it takes to service a tree. My office has been inundated with calls on this issue.

**Residents want enhanced tree pruning to:**

1. provide a clear pathway for street lighting and hydro lines to improve safety
2. prevent dead trees from toppling over and damaging property and possibly impact personal safety
3. improve pedestrian sidewalk mobility as well as improve vehicular sight-lines
4. help keep trees healthy through proper maintenance

Urban Forestry is constantly starved of adequate funding to catch up with the backlog of service requests. The lack of maintenance has been weakened our existing tree canopy, making them particularly vulnerable to inclement weather. Storm damage further delays the maintenance list by at least an additional 2-3 months each time. It is not uncommon for residents to wait 18 months or longer for a routine pruning. In my ward, I have had a request in for removal of dead trees on Albion Road for over three years.

Ten million dollars needs to be added to Urban Forestry in the upcoming 2008 Budget process. The amount should be split between maintenance and backlog issues, fleet upgrades and tree canopy enhancement. Forestry staff has provided recent reports on the need for more funding.

If we continue to allow our current canopy to flounder we are defeating the purpose of our intent to retain and enhance the tree canopy in Toronto. Serious consideration must be given to this provision in the 2008 Budget process.

Councillor Suzan Hall  
Ward 1, Etobicoke North