

From: [FLAP Canada](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: For Council meeting: Bird Collision Deterrence section of the Toronto Green Standard
Date: Friday, November 3, 2017 2:24:44 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm sorry we forgot to include you in the distribution list. Please add this email below to the communication for next week's Council agenda.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 416-366-3527..

Thanks,
Michael

From: FLAP Canada [<mailto:flap@flap.org>]

Sent: October 30, 2017 4:43 PM

To: Mayor Tory <Mayor_Tory@toronto.ca>; Councillor Ainslie <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>; Councillor Augimeri <Councillor_Augimeri@toronto.ca>; Councillor Bailao <Councillor_Bailao@toronto.ca>; Councillor Burnside <Councillor_Burnside@toronto.ca>; Councillor Campbell <Councillor_Campbell@toronto.ca>; Councillor Carmichael Greb <Councillor_CarmichaelGreb@toronto.ca>; Councillor Carroll <councillor_carroll@toronto.ca>; Councillor Colle <councillor_colle@toronto.ca>; Councillor Crawford <councillor_crawford@toronto.ca>; Councillor Cressy <Councillor_Cressy@toronto.ca>; Councillor Crisanti <councillor_crisanti@toronto.ca>; Councillor Davis <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>; Councillor DeBaeremaeker <councillor_deBaeremaeker@toronto.ca>; Councillor Di Ciano <Councillor_DiCiano@toronto.ca>; Councillor Di Giorgio <Councillor_Digiorgio@toronto.ca>; Councillor Doucette <Councillor_Doucette@toronto.ca>; Councillor Filion <councillor_filion@toronto.ca>; Councillor Fletcher <councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca>; Councillor MFord <councillor_mford@toronto.ca>; Councillor Fragedakis <Councillor_Fragedakis@toronto.ca>; Councillor Grimes <Councillor_Grimes@toronto.ca>; Councillor Hart <Councillor_Hart@toronto.ca>; Councillor Holland <Councillor_Holland@toronto.ca>; Councillor Holyday <Councillor_Holyday@toronto.ca>; Councillor Karygiannis <Councillor_Karygiannis@toronto.ca>; Councillor Kelly <councillor_kelly@toronto.ca>; Councillor Layton <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>; Councillor Lee <Councillor_Lee@toronto.ca>; Councillor Mammoliti <Councillor_Mammoliti@toronto.ca>; Councillor Matlow <councillor_matlow@toronto.ca>; Councillor McMahon <councillor_mcmahon@toronto.ca>; Councillor Mihevc <Councillor_Mihevc@toronto.ca>; Councillor Minnan-Wong <councillor_minnan-wong@toronto.ca>; Councillor Nunziata <Councillor_Nunziata@toronto.ca>; Councillor Palacio <Councillor_Palacio@toronto.ca>; Councillor Pasternak <Councillor_Pasternak@toronto.ca>; Councillor Perks <Councillor_Perks@toronto.ca>; Councillor Perruzza <Councillor_Perruzza@toronto.ca>; Councillor Jaye Robinson <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>; Councillor Shan <Councillor_Shan@toronto.ca>; Councillor Shiner <Councillor_Shiner@toronto.ca>; Councillor Thompson <councillor_thompson@toronto.ca>; Councillor Wongtam <councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca>

Subject: For Council meeting: Bird Collision Deterrence section of the Toronto Green Standard

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillors,

Re: Toronto Green Standard Review and Update --

Bird Collision Deterrence Section

We at FLAP Canada are excited that the *Toronto Green Standard* will be updated at the Council meeting next week. We would like to take this opportunity to provide our recommendations to the Bird Collision Deterrence section; our aim is to strengthen the Standard to best bird/building collision prevention practices. It is estimated that over a million migratory birds die from building collisions in Toronto every year. Provided all these recommendations are adopted, that number can be reduced to over 80%.

Since 2005, FLAP Canada, a national charity, has been a member of the City of Toronto's *Light Out Toronto!* working group and has contributed to the development of the Bird Collision Deterrence and Light Pollution sections of the *Toronto Green Standard*. We recommend the following:

1. **Density of Marker:** Reduce 100 mm x 100 mm marker spacing to 100 mm x 50 mm (maximum spacing of 100 mm vertical or 50 mm horizontal). We recommend reducing the marker spacing further to 50 mm x 50 mm to match the Bird Collision Deterrence section for City-owned buildings and all Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations. The response from the commercial and architectural sectors has been that marker patterns spaced evenly apart both vertically and horizontally tend to be less noticeable to the human eye.
2. **Placement of Markers:** Markers need to be placed on the outside (first) surface of glass. Research concludes that markers placed on inner (second, third or fourth) surfaces are hidden by first surface reflection under variable lighting conditions.
3. **Contrast of Markers:** Require markers to be visibly distinguishable under variable lighting conditions. Research demonstrates that high contrast markers are necessary to be seen on both reflective and transparent surfaces.
4. **Coverage of Markers:** Increase the present standard for area of treated surfaces from 85% to 100% coverage. Research demonstrates that untreated glazed surfaces greater than 1 square metre incrementally increase the potential for birds collisions.
5. **Height of Treatment:** Increase the present standard for marker treatment height from 12 metres to 25 metres above grade or to the top of mature tree canopies – whichever is greater. Research concludes that the majority of daytime bird/window collisions occur up to the top of mature tree canopies. As Toronto's canopies can exceed 25 metres, the new standard should be increased to mitigate this threat.
6. **Building Retrofits and Window Replacements:** Require all building retrofits and window replacements to adopt the above standards. Many older buildings are due for glass replacement and/or renovations, and therefore should be subject to the same standard as new builds.
7. **Existing Construction:** Require all existing construction to adopt the above standards by 2027. Existing buildings are responsible for over 99% of bird deaths and injuries and therefore should be subject to the same standard as new buildings.

If you have any questions or concerns about our recommendations, I would be happy to speak with you in person or by phone. I can be reached at 416-366-3527 or flap@flap.org.

As the City of Toronto continues to lead and inspire the world at addressing bird/building collisions, it is in the best interest of birds that Toronto adopt the best standard possible for others cities to replicate.

Best wishes,

Michael

Michael Mesure

Executive Director

Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada

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