
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM11.10	ACTION			Ward:All
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Canadian Food Inspection Agency Forest Pest Compensation Regulations on Replacement Grants for Emerald Ash Borer - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Parks and Environment Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to enter into a purchase of service agreement with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to order the removal of ash trees infected with Emerald Ash Borer.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to report to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on the removal orders issued to property owners making them eligible for the replacement grant offered through the Forest Pest Compensation Regulations.
3. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to further approach the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to request that City of Toronto-owned trees also be eligible for the replacement grants.

Summary

The City of Toronto, along with other municipalities, is experiencing the negative effects of the Emerald Ash Borer across the City. The City of Toronto is investing to replace City-owned trees to preserve our tree canopy. The City does not have the means to replace trees on privately-owned properties.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recently introduced Forest Pest Compensation Regulations to include replacement of trees infected with EAB. The compensation referred to on the CFIA website is for trees that were removed or ordered to be removed by CFIA. The CFIA is however not ordering the removal of ash trees. Homeowners are removing ash trees to avoid hazards not because the CFIA is trying to prevent further spread of the insect.

The regulation, although good intentioned, covers only the trees the Canadian Food Inspection Agency orders to be cut down. As the agency is not ordering removal of trees, residents who require compensation are not eligible for the replacement grant to cover the cost of planting new trees.

The City of Toronto is seeking assistance from the Federal Government to compensate Toronto residents. The City of Toronto could work with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency by entering into a purchase of service agreement to conduct the investigation and issue orders for removal of trees infected with Emerald Ash Borer enabling property owners to become eligible for the replacement grant.

In the case of Asian long horned beetle owners of trees close to the deemed infested areas were given orders to remove their private trees, the CFIA removed the trees and offered compensation to help owners with the replacement.

(Submitted to City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011 as MM11.10)