



The Annex Residents' Association

December 7, 2015

TO Parks and Environment Committee
 Chair Michelle Berardinetti,
 Cllrs. Maria Augimeri, Joe Cressy, Sarah Doucette, Mike Layton and Gord Perks
 Mayor John Tory and Members of Council
 Toronto City Hall
 100 Queen Street West,
 Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attn: Ms. Marilyn Toft, Manager Email: clerk@toronto.ca
 Council Secretariat Support Fax: 416.392.2980

RE **PE8.5: REVISIONS TO THE TREE BY-LAWS**
 Heard on November 23rd, 2015 by Parks and Environment
 Reference No. P:\20156\Cluster A\PFR08-112315-AFS#20848
 Advancing to Council with Bills attached on December 9, 2015

The Annex Residents Association requests that agenda item PE8.5 be referred back to the Parks and Recreation Committee as a deputation item. PE8.5 excludes councillors and the public in regard to “as of right” applications to remove trees.

As noted by the Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations (CORRA), the proposed changes sharply reduce the notice period from 14 days to 0 days for “as of right” applications and, furthermore, fail to adequately define those applications. Such far-reaching revisions should not be made without adequate public notice and response time.

We support CORRA’s view that PE8.5 “neuters Councillors while making them the brunt when the public becomes aware that a mature tree has been approved for removal with one day’s notice to the public advising the approval.”

The Annex is home to nearly 10,000 trees, many of them a century old. Abundant mature trees are a defining characteristic of our neighbourhood, and play a vital environmental role in the City’s efforts to maintain the tree canopy. The ARA urges the Council to do everything in its power to protect this critical resource.

Sincerely,

Polly Wells
 Chair, Parks and Trees Committee
 Annex Residents Association