



**Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation  
Cultural Committee  
3312 Mississauga Road, R. R. # 6  
Hagersville, Ontario N0A 1H0**

**Fax: 905-768-1225**

Date: November 2, 2015

**MM10.1.42**

Ms. Marilyn Toft,  
Manager Council Secretarial Support  
Toronto City Hall 100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

**Re: Motion MM9.1 Request to Protect 250 year old Red Oak Tree at 76 Coral Gable Drive - Toronto City Council Meeting - November 3 and 4, 2015 Mayor John Tory and Members of Council:**

I am Faith Rivers the Chair of the Mississaugas of the New Credit Cultural Committee and a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. I am writing this letter in support of protecting the 250 year old Red Oak Tree at 76 Coral Gable Drive, Weston, Ontario M9M 1P1.

As you are aware this 250 Red Oak Tree sits on the Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. As far as I am aware there has been no contact with the First Nation in regards to the future of the 250 year old Red Oak. You have no right to discuss the life of this Heritage Tree except to designate it a Heritage Tree. This tree has been here long before you and I came to be, but my Ancestors have had the pleasure of sharing this land with the beauty of this 250 year old Red Oak Tree.

You may look at this 250 year old Red Oak as being in the way of productivity, but you do not take into consideration the heritage of the past, present and future it holds for my people as well as your people now. The dwellings it provides for other lives in Creation, along with being revered by many because of its heritage, stature and beauty.

This tree was visited by former Chief of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation Carolyn King in July 2008. The Present Chief of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation Bryan LaForme also visited this 250 year Old Red Oak in October of 2013 and his words were "this tree is not just a tree it is a Sacred Tree". This tree holds history from the past 250 years of my Ancestors and I'm sure you would not want to destroy the history of my people by removing this "Sacred Landmark".

My question to you is why has this "250 year old Sacred Red Oak Tree" not been designated as a "Heritage Tree"? Why has this information not been made public and why has it been sitting on your desk since July 4, 2007?

I now say Chi Miigwetch (A big Thank You) for accepting this letter in support of my history, Ancestors and the life of the 250 year old Red Oak Tree at 76 Coral Gable Drive located in Weston Ontario. I say Chi Miigwetch for taking into consideration of the past 250 years this tree could tell you about instead of looking at life without this "Sacred Tree".

In Friendship,

Faith Rivers  
Chair of the New Credit Cultural Committee  
Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation  
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