



Toronto Civic Employees' Union, Local 416

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LOCAL 416

Affiliated with the Canadian
Labour Congress and the
Labour Council of Toronto
& York Region

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May 1, 2019

AUDIT COMMITTEE
Toronto City Hall
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

RE AU2.4 Review of Urban Forestry – Ensuring Value for Money for Tree Maintenance Services

Dear Chair Holyday and Members of the Audit Committee,

On Friday, May 3, 2019, the Audit Committee will review a report authored by Toronto's Auditor General that highlights alleged inaccurate daily work logs by private contractors hired by the City of Toronto to maintain the City's tree inventory. It is estimated that these alleged inaccurate maintenance records amount to an estimated potential loss in productivity of approximately \$2.6 Million per year. CUPE Local 416 is writing you to offer our support in the City's effort to improve efficiency, accountability and overall quality of services in the Urban Forestry division.

Torontonians expect the highest quality of service delivery in all their public services. They want, and deserve, respect, accountability, transparency and efficiency from their service providers. This troubling report before you reinforces the potential problems associated with contracting out services for important City assets, including our trees.

As you are aware, the City uses both in-house City employee crews and private contractors to perform tree maintenance work. Local 416 City employees are hardworking partners of the City of Toronto, and have been for over 100 years. The City is currently spending over \$20 Million annually on three private contractors who are allegedly failing to perform to the standards outlined in their contract - a standard Torontonians expect and deserve. This report clearly shows that the City of Toronto, and its residents, are not receiving the quality of service they are paying for. Torontonians deserve better.

Local 416 members provide high-quality important Parks, Forestry and Recreation services across Toronto year-round. They have also proven to be a reliable resource when the City is in need of quality service to supplement private contractors' work in other City Divisions, such as snow clearing and pothole repair. Local 416 members take pride in their work, and in their city. We are committed to providing efficient and accountable services to the residents of Toronto, and our members are willing and able to step up and provide an increased role to improve the tree maintenance services in the city through our City of Toronto employees.

As such, we ask that the City explore opportunities to increase the efficiency and accountability in the delivery of tree maintenance services by increasing the role of City employees for the maintenance of our urban forest.

We look forward to discussing this matter further and continuing to serve Torontonians with the highest quality of service each and every day.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Mariconda', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eddie Mariconda
President, CUPE Local 416

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