



Sept 11, 2020

Infrastructure and Environment Committee ([iec@toronto.ca](mailto:iec@toronto.ca))

## **IE15.8 Request to Study the Environmental Impact of Two Stroke Engine Garden Equipment**

The South Armour Heights Residents' Association was pleased to learn that Councillors Shelley Carroll and James Pasternak have put a Motion forward for a Study to be conducted on this issue.

The request is for the City Manager, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, to report back in the first quarter of 2021 on the environmental and associated health impacts of gasoline-powered two-stroke engine leaf blowers and other similarly operated garden equipment, including the feasibility of a year-round ban or a ban from May to September.

Enforcement policies and procedures must also be defined such that the City responds quickly enough to catch the lawbreakers.

The good news is that today around 200 companies operate exclusively with electric or battery operated machine and/or manual tools. Entire municipalities and school districts are operating with electric and manual tools for all routine maintenance. These cities and schools have been certified as Green Zones and have substantially reduced toxic and carcinogenic emissions, noise, waste and carbon dioxide.

A number of cities/towns across the U.S. and Canada have already enacted some form of legislation to restrict or ban the use of Gas Lawn Blowers. Toronto should as well!

We sincerely hope Toronto will take the first step by commissioning this Study.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sheila Dunlop'.

Sheila Dunlop (Secretary)

Cc: Mayor John Tory  
Dr. Eileen de Villa  
Councillor M. Colle, Linda McCarthy  
Geoff Kettel, Cathie MacDonald, Harold Smith (FoNTRA)  
Bedford Park Residents Organization  
Lytton Park Residents' Organization  
Upper Avenue Community Association  
Jim Sadler, Bob Williams, Gary Langdon (SAHRA)