

From: [Randy VanDerStarren](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: Our comments for 2020.MM26.9 on November 25 REVISION to include OPTION "B"
Date: November 24, 2020 8:38:48 AM
Attachments: [Red Oak letter to Council.pdf](#)

To the City Clerk:
REVISION TO ADD OPTION 'B' ATTACHED TO REPLACE NOVEMBER 23RD
SUBMISSION

Please add the Committee to Preserve Toronto's Tree's comments to the agenda for the November 25, 2020 City Council meeting on item 2020.MM26.9, 250 Year Old Oak Tree - 76 Coral Gable Drive - by Councillor Anthony Perruzza, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy

I understand that as a representative of the Committee to Preserve Toronto's Tree, my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:
Please see the attached letter.

Thank you!
Randy VanDerStarren
Representative for the Committee to Preserve Toronto's Tree
[REDACTED]



[One People.One Planet.One Life.](#)

November 24th, 2020

The Council of The City of Toronto
City Hall
100 Queen St W
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

**Re: Vote to support Member Motion, MM26.9 OPTION 'B'
Can Toronto's Tree become Toronto's hope?**

Dear Members of Council:

1,200 donors from all corners of our City believe it can.
A groundswell of media support demonstrates the news value in preserving this symbol.
Achieving 71% of our financial goal, says it's within our grasp.

We have reached this milestone despite a relentless pandemic, despite cancellations of all our planned fundraising events and despite the ever-increasing economic and emotional pressures placed on all our seemingly disparate communities.

That said, even as momentum continues to build at an enviable clip, time is running out.
Toronto's Tree needs your help.

**We humbly ask that Council vote in support of Member Motion MM26.9
OPTION 'B' so that we can continue our fundraising efforts past the December
12th deadline with certainty that the 250-year-old Red Oak will truly become
Toronto's Tree.**

25 Wards have come together as one because they believe, as this Committee believes,
that Toronto needs its tree perhaps now more than ever.

Why, with so many more critical issues at hand, has a tree become so important?
Simply, we believe it's because this tree, Toronto's Tree, is so much more.

With one passed motion, this tree will stand long after COVID-19 itself has past.

Toronto's Tree will stand for our hopes.

It will stand for our triumphs.

Toronto's Tree will stand for our history and our history in the making.

Can Toronto's Tree become Toronto's hope?

You now have the power to make that happen.

Sincerely,

The Committee to Preserve Toronto's Tree

Mark Cullen, Michael de Pencier, Mike Hurley, Edith George, Jeff Moore, Randy VanDerStarren

Is this the right time to protect Toronto's Tree?

We have asked this question each day since we started fund raising.

People are suffering.

Some are dying.

Businesses are shuttered while others struggle to remain open.

Yet, the human spirit, our sense of community, finds the will to survive.

Herein we always find our answer...

This is not just about protecting a tree.

It is about preserving our collective hopes,
about being part of something greater than ourselves,
about ensuring a monumental, living symbol
of our City's triumph over adversity endures.

This 250-year-old tree has survived pestilence,
blight and axe-wielding settlers.

It was a centenarian witness to the birth of Canada.

Because of Toronto's efforts,
it will now witness and commemorate our City's rebirth.

This tree connects us to our planet,
to our past,
to each other.

It reminds us that the faith placed in one acorn
can result in the miraculous.

This is not merely about protecting a tree.

It is about preserving an invaluable piece of ourselves.

Is this the right time to protect Toronto's Tree?

Now that we understand what's at stake,

the answer is an emphatic yes.



The Committee to Preserve Toronto's Tree

Mark Cullen, Michael de Pencier, Mike Hurley, Edith George, Jeff Moore, Randy VanDerStarren