

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM47.101	ACTION			Ward: All
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Addressing Issues with Tree Planting in the Proximity of Water Infrastructure - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate*

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Toronto Water, to work with the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to actively find solutions for Toronto Water infrastructure to co-exist with tree planting and in particular to prioritize tree planting opportunities at 5 Scrivener Square.

Summary

Pressures exist on development sites across the City of Toronto to accommodate all critical grey and green infrastructure. More often than not, this conflict results in the prevention of trees from being planted in the proximity of water infrastructure, including in areas where trees have been removed.

City Council recognizes the importance of grey and green infrastructure to work in tandem to respond to the City's climate resiliency goals, tree canopy goals and to contribute to a livable city.

Staff have been attempting to identify agreeable outcomes to these conflicts through Concept 2 Keys initiative and the Green Streets Steering Committee, but a solution is needed now to prevent lost opportunities for tree planting on development sites, including at 5 Scrivener Square.

Toronto Water should be working with relevant City Divisions and development applicants to ensure trees are given more priority when considering planting plans against utility infrastructure.

The City of Toronto remains in a climate emergency and as numerous sites are undergoing construction and planting in the months ahead, staff must work together to ensure that opportunities for critical green infrastructure are not lost. To do this, Toronto Water infrastructure will have to be co-located with trees which is the situation in many areas across the City.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM47.101