

October 6, 2023

Re: Your correspondence dated September 29, 2023.

Dear Dan Nicholson:

Thank you for your request. We appreciate your patience as we complete planning on many aspects of the Ontario Place redevelopment, including tree removals on site. We are sharing the information below to respond to your questions.

Tree Removals – Site Servicing

The first phase of tree removal is expected to begin in late October. Approximately 600 trees will be removed during this phase – more than 100 of which have a diameter greater than 30cm. The final number of trees is subject to change as we refine and confirm our plans.

It is important to note that the trees being removed as part of this first phase will enable the site servicing replacement work. None of these trees are located on the West Island.

More information on the Category B Environmental Assessment completed in July of 2022 for site servicing upgrades can be found here: <https://engageontarioplace.ca/public-posting-of-the-category-b-environmental-assessment-for-site-servicing-upgrades/>

Tree Removal – Future Phases

As outlined in the Arborist Report submitted with our updated development application, future phases of work across the whole site will see additional trees removed for a total of approximately 1,500 trees to be removed, the majority of which are scrub (short trees or bush) or below 30cm in diameter. Again, this estimated count is subject to change pending finalization of plans.

Tree Removal and Protection Process

As per provincial authorities, the province will not be formally seeking municipal permits for the removal of trees located on provincially owned lands. However, the province will be following the municipal process with regard to due diligence, tree protection and replacement standards.

As per current municipal practices, tree removal specification drawings will be prepared, and tree removals and protection will be done in a manner consistent with current standard practice(s) within the City of Toronto. As such, the province will use certified arborists where

appropriate; ensure that no tree removals take place between April 1 and September 30 to prevent impacts to nesting species at risk or migratory birds; install tree protection zones/hoarding around retained trees; and engage in other practices consistent with the standards outlined in the Arborist reports and Natural Heritage Impact Studies.

Replanting

Approximately 2,900 trees of various sizes will be planted across Ontario Place, representing an overall replacement ratio of 2:1. As trees that are less than 30cm in diameter at breast height are not subject to replacement under the City's by-law, the province's replacement ratio actually represents a 6:1 ratio for trees over 30cm in diameter.

Replanting at Ontario Place will be done in a manner consistent with the Planting Strategies and Plans included in the development application submitted on September 13, 2023, with detailed Tree Planting Plans to be provided at Site Plan, as applicable.

The Replanting Strategy for Ontario Place draws on and is directly informed by the successful planting strategy at Trillium Park. New plantings of various sizes, ages, and species will also be introduced to promote diversity, improved ecological function and productivity as terrestrial habitat.

Vegetation that will be planted on-site post development will be primarily native/regional species or native cultivars (as opposed to the approximately 50% non-native plantings on-site today). Planted vegetation will be established in clean fill or remediated soil (as opposed to the current widespread contamination), and with soil depths and volumes consistent with contemporary industry best practice and applicable Toronto Green Standards. In addition, we continue to engage Indigenous communities and seek their guidance to ensure trees are repurposed where possible and continue to be a part of the future Ontario Place site.

Clarification

Finally, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide a clarification. In your letter, you state:

In your Detailed Revision List in the September 18th 2023 resubmission, you further acknowledge that "applications to remove or injure the trees should be submitted to Urban Forestry prior to any Zoning Amendment report or any other clearance being issued. If the owner will not be making tree applications, they must notify Urban Forestry in the next submission."

At the time of resubmission, the project team was finalizing the tree removal strategy, including the approach to permitting. We were not yet in a position to confirm if tree applications would be made. As such, we did not notify Urban Forestry or provide further details. Now that it is confirmed that the trees are located on provincial lands and do not require municipal permits to remove, we are no longer required to notify Urban Forestry.

As noted above, the tree removal process will be conducted as per the authorities of the province on provincial lands and will include all due diligence and processes consistent with current standard practices in the City of Toronto. Approximately 2,900 trees of various sizes will be planted across Ontario Place, representing an overall replacement ratio of 2:1, with a ratio of up to 6:1 to trees over 30cm in diameter.

We appreciate the continued collaboration with the City of Toronto and your ongoing cooperation as we work together in support of the Ontario Place redevelopment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Shin', with a stylized, flowing script.

Elaine Shin
Director, Project Delivery