



Planning & Housing Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
phc@toronto.ca

November 29, 2023

Dear Members of Planning and Housing Committee,

**Re: PH8.6 Growing Space for Trees: Protecting and Enhancing the Tree Canopy While Supporting Infill Housing**

ABC Residents Association (“ABCRA”) is an incorporated volunteer body that has been in existence since 1957. ABCRA represents the interests of residents who live in the area between Yonge Street and Avenue Road and Bloor Street to the CPR tracks.

While we endorse the city's efforts to accommodate population growth through housing development, the potential adverse effects of new infill housing on the tree canopy demand urgent attention. The 2018 Tree Canopy Study highlights a substantial reduction in benefits provided by the urban forest, coupled with a 49% decrease in annual air pollution removal. The city's commitment to building complete communities necessitates green infrastructure, a crucial component for a healthy living environment.

We must acknowledge that when considering the City's Tree Canopy strategy as a whole, special attention must be given to areas in the downtown core considering the existing and growing density and lack of green space.

Despite numerous motions and directives since 2018 addressing the correlation between building permits and tree cover loss, and recommending enhanced enforcement for soft landscaping, progress has been lethargic. The City's Tree Canopy report indicates a significant reduction in green spaces and soft landscaping, particularly on Single Family Residential lands.

The extended delay in taking decisive action contradicts the urgency expressed by City Council over the years. To expedite the protection of green spaces and meet Council's Tree Canopy expansion goal, we propose the following recommendations:

**Accelerate Recommendations Timeline:** Request staff to expedite recommendations for protecting existing trees and expanding the tree canopy. The recommended timeline of Q4

2024 is unacceptable, and we urge bringing this forward to Q2 2024 for a more timely resolution.

**Enhance Committee of Adjustment Application Requirements:** Clarify the requirements for a complete Committee of Adjustment application, including fines for incomplete or inaccurate tree declaration forms, up-to-date colour photos, and comprehensive site plans detailing tree protection zones and boundary trees.

**Expand Tree Impact Monitoring:** Extend monitoring for tree impacts resulting from various residential building types, including the loss of smaller-sized private trees, soft landscaping, trees on adjacent properties, and major limbs and roots.

**Inclusive Stakeholder Consultations:** Specify that consultations with relevant stakeholders include resident associations throughout the city.

The urgency of these actions is critical to safeguard Toronto's green spaces. Your immediate attention and commitment to these recommendations are imperative for the well-being of our city.

Sincerely,

The ABC Residents Association,  
Ian Carmichael and John Caliendo,  
Co-Chairs  
abcra@abc.ca