

councilmeeting

From: Jacinta McDonnell <jacinta@plantbasedtreaty.org>
Sent: July 5, 2024 10:46 AM
To: Infrastructure and Environment
Subject: [External Sender] Deputation to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, July 3, 2024

Dear Matthew,

Please see below my in-person deputation to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on July 3rd, 2024.

This the link for the document: [Toronto Infrastructure and Environment Committee - deputation - Google Docs](#)

Best,
Jacinta

Jacinta McDonnell. Plant Based Treaty.

Hello everyone. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Jacinta McDonnell. I live in the Davenport area of Toronto with my 26 year old son. We care about our health, the environment, animals, and humans and we are both vegan. I am with Toronto Health Save, Toronto350, Toronto Climate Action Network, and the Plant Based Treaty Toronto team.

The PBT Toronto team is thrilled that the Toronto Infrastructure and Environment Committee (TIEC) June 18, 2024 Report from the Executive Director, Environment and Climate includes the Plant Based Treaty. Thank you!

Our recent city endorsements are: Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Udaipur, India, Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Darebin, Australia.

Recently, West Hollywood, California City Council voted unanimously to have plant-based by default menus at all city organised events and meetings. During City of Toronto Council meetings where food and beverages are being served it would be a perfect opportunity for Toronto City Council to take a leadership role and offer everyone a fully plant-based menu since the carbon footprint of plant based foods and beverages is lower than meat and dairy products. Other benefits would be healthier, delicious food for everyone and there should be cost savings for the city as well.

There is evidence that a plant-based diet is healthy for all stages of life. The recommendation of cow's milk for children under the age of two in the report is very concerning. Many paediatricians recommend fortified soy milk for children under the age of two. In a webinar for Kitchener Waterloo VegFest in 2020 Dr. Rikin Patel, a Canadian Paediatrician reassured viewers that fortified soy milk is healthy for infants and toddlers based on the Canadian Pediatric Society and the Canada Food Guidelines.

Lastly, I would like to request that the TIEC recommend that the City of Toronto join the list of 30 cities and municipalities around the world that have signed on to the Plant Based Treaty. Support for the treaty is not legally binding but it does indicate that the city takes the threat of not living within our planetary boundaries seriously. As stated in the report, "The City of Toronto is currently undertaking actions that align with the Plant Based Treaty, a voluntary treaty that the City of Toronto has not formally signed, which aims to reduce the widespread degradation of ecosystems worldwide caused by animal agriculture by promoting a shift to more

healthy, sustainable plant-based diets.” An endorsement by the largest city in Canada would be very meaningful and set a pathway for other cities and towns in Ontario and across the country to follow suit.



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[Sign the plant based treaty](#)