

From: [LyttonPark ResidentsOrganization](#)
To: [Board of Health](#)
Cc: [Mayor Chow](#); [Councillor Colle8](#); [Harold Smith](#)
Subject: [External Sender] 14.1 Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan 2024-2028
Date: July 3, 2024 5:54:08 PM
Attachments:

Attached is a letter from the Lytton Park Residents' Organization regarding Agenda item 14.1 Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

Regards,
Maureen Kapral
President, Lytton Park Residents' Organization

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For up to date information on what LPRO is doing, please visit our Website:
<https://lyttonparkro.ca>

Our Catchment Area is Yonge St west to Proudfoot, Lawrence south to
Roselawn/Briar Hill

Mailing Address: Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc., PO Box# 1348, 2708
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If you don't wish to receive these emails, please notify us:
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LYTTON PARK RESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION INC.
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5 July 2024

Amanda Wahl
Toronto City Hall
boh@toronto.ca

Dear Members of the Toronto Board of Health:

HL14.1 - Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Noise is a Health Issue

Board of Health Meeting - July 8, 2024

The Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan 2024-2028 vision is a city where all people can be healthy and thrive. To this end, we urge Toronto Public Health to declare noise a health crisis.

- Follow up on City Council's request for the Medical Officer of Health to review the Noise Action Plan and report back to the Board of Health in the first quarter of 2025 on any updates to the existing recommendations necessary to address population-level health concerns raised by residents in consultations on the Noise By-Law Review.
- Inform residents that excessive noise endangers our health and well-being.
- Inform residents about health dangers caused by the excessive noise and toxic emissions of gas-powered landscape and construction equipment.

Many residents are not aware of the serious health risks from the noise, carcinogenic emissions and smog from gas-powered lawn and construction equipment. Public Health should inform residents of these health risks and should urge City Hall to implement a ban on the use of gas-powered equipment. This would align with Toronto Public Health priorities:

- Priority 1. Strengthen health protection, disease prevention and emergency preparedness. Battery power is preventative medicine in that it reduces noise and eliminates toxic fumes.
- Priority 2. Advocate to advance health equity. Many landscape and construction workers are recent immigrants who are exposed to noise and toxic emissions from loud polluting machines when grooming landscapes. Battery-powered equipment advances their health equity.
- Priority 3. Promote health and well-being across the lifespan. Switching to quieter clean battery power is preventative medicine in that it reduces noise and toxic emissions in landscape and construction workplaces for people on-site and people in the vicinity of the work.

The Lytton Park Residents' Organization ("LPRO") is an incorporated non-profit association, representing residents living in the area bounded by Lawrence Avenue West to Roselawn and Briar Hill Avenues, Yonge Street to Saguenay and Proudfoot Avenue.
<https://lyttonparkro.ca/>

- Priority 4. Prepare for climate change impacts.

The California Air Resources Board states that a commercial leaf blower operating for one hour emits smog-forming pollution comparable to driving a light-duty passenger car about 1,100 miles (1,770km).

A recent Scientific American article, *Quiet! Our Loud World Is Making Us Sick*, cites Dr. Jamie Banks who, while working from home, found that the horrible noise from leaf blowers, industrial lawnmowers, and hedge trimmers went on for hours every day, that the sound of a gas-powered leaf blower outside was higher over a 24-hour period than WHO's cutoff to protect hearing. She realized that this was harmful for her, to workers operating the equipment, and to people nearby including children and seniors. She noted that the heart and blood vessels also take a hit from noise, that the effect of noise stresses the circulatory system. Epidemiological studies over the years have linked environmental noise to high blood pressure, to heart failure, to myocardial infarction (heart attacks) and strokes.

To make Toronto healthier and meet its priorities Toronto Public Health should

- declare noise a health crisis;
- improve its messaging regarding the harmful health effects of noise;
- recommend safe noise levels for the noise by-law in time for the 1st quarter of 2025 deadline; and
- warn about gas-powered-equipment noise and pollution hazards and their social inequities.

Sincerely,

Maureen Kapral

President, Lytton Park Residents' Organization

c: Mayor Olivia Chow

Deputy Mayor Mike Colle