

**Sept 25, 2025**

**Re: IE24.10 - Tree Maintenance Review Update**

Dear Infrastructure and Environment Committee Members,

Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) applauds Toronto's commitment to ensure the expansion, protection and maintenance of our tree canopy. A healthy and resilient urban forest is one of the most important and cost effective ways to cool our city, absorb stormwater and clean our air.

We would like to express support for staff recommendation to pursue a phased approach to insourcing tree maintenance services. The flexibility and increased oversight can benefit our urban forest through improved training and quality control of City-delivered services. This can also benefit workers by creating good green City jobs.

With cost analysis showing no operational savings from outsourcing, this step is a cost-effective way to set the stage for better tree health and help meet Toronto's tree canopy goals.

We look forward to the results of the ongoing third-party review of existing tree maintenance programs to explore how the City can further improve the health of our urban forest. This can go hand in hand with gradual insourcing, allowing new training or advanced techniques to be quickly implemented in-house.

Together, these steps can create both a healthier workforce, and a healthier urban forest.

Thank you,



Sarah Buchanan  
Campaigns Director  
Toronto Environmental Alliance