



---

# DON MILLS RESIDENTS INC.

---

March 24, 2026

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Attention: Sylwia Przewdziecki

**RE: IE27.8 – Tree By-law Review Report**

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council:

The Don Mills Residents Inc. (DMRI) represents residents from the area roughly bounded by Eglinton Avenue and York Mills Road, with the west boundary along Wilket Creek and the east along Don valley Parkway to Lawrence Avenue and Don River. This area is undergoing rapid development especially along Eglinton Avenue and west of Don Valley Parkway. Our residential areas with rather generous lots, mature trees and green spaces are important to the City Council's goal of 40% tree canopy for Toronto.

City Council recognizes the importance of urban trees as essential to climate mitigation and quality of life in the city. However, the current tree protection bylaws are not strong enough and their reinforcement is inadequate to protect cutting of healthy trees without permits to make room for new developments. We welcome any improvements to existing bylaws which will improve protection of trees. DMRI supports the following recommendations which before the Council:

- **Lowering the current by-law threshold for trees on private properties from 30 cm to 20 cm**  
In our climate, it takes a tree anything from 8 to 40 years to reach 20 cm diameter depending on weather it is a fast or slow growing tree and on local conditions. This clearly indicates that 20 cm trees are forming an important foundation for future tree canopy and therefore worthwhile preserving today.  
***We would like to urge you to act on this issue now and implement it as soon as possible instead of waiting to 2027.*** Our concern is that during this period many trees of between 20 and 30 cm in diameter will be cut for anticipated future developments.
- **Introduction of a Distinctive Tree Category for largest healthy trees on private or ravine properties**
- **Establishing a complimentary Distinctive Tree Maintenance Incentive Program**
- **New permit fee structure for removal or injury to trees**
- **Improving public access to tree permit application prior to a tree removal/ injury and**
- **Improvement in engagement of local and Indigenous communities and enhancing public access to contravention outcome**

**DMRI request that the Council supports the above recommendations to protect out tree canopy.**

Sincerely,

Vera Straka  
Developments, Don Mills Residents Inc.

[vera.straka@gmail.com](mailto:vera.straka@gmail.com)