

OBJECTION TO 2025.PH26.2

Dear Planning and Housing Committee,

I wish to express my objection to item 2025.PH26.2.

Toronto already has resilient tree protection policies in place with respect to balancing new development with existing trees. If anything, it is too restrictive. The existing stated direction from City Council to refuse removal of trees for garden suites and multiplexes has established a preference for protecting trees over creating much-needed new housing in established neighbourhoods.

Under Toronto's current tree policies, we have seen the number of trees in our city steadily increasing. We can expect that to continue to happen, as the protections in place are tough, but balanced. Further restrictions of this manner will not improve our tree canopy. Instead, they will increase the cost and difficulty of creating infill housing, and lead to increased illegal removals.

The proposed changes in 2025.PH26.2 are misguided. Instead of restricting development, we should be considering mutually beneficial pursuits, like the following:

- Allowing removals with clear guidelines for replanting
- Initiatives for street trees outside of the development footprint
- Increased city-led initiatives to plant trees in municipally owned parks and boulevards
- Processes for allowing new trees on third party sites

We need solutions that allow infill development to proceed predictably and efficiently. Trees need to be respected and enhanced, but this cannot come at the cost of increased housing costs for Torontonians.

Please refuse this amendment, and request solutions that allow for both housing and trees to proliferate harmoniously.

Sincerely,



Craig Race, Principal