Submitted: Mon, 12/08/2025 - 10:04

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Executive Policy Committee

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Public engagement for tree protection bylaw

Support or oppose recommendations
I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments
Please see attached

Submission for a committee of council
Trees Winnipeg letter to EPC Dec 8 2025.pdf

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.
Yes

Personal information

First name
Christian

Last name
Cassidy

TREES Winnipeg
The Coalition to Save the Elms
www.treeswinnipeg.org

December 8, 2025

Executive Policy Committee
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 3M2

Submitted via email

RE: A BYLAW TO PROTECT TREES ON PUBLIC OR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Good morning,

It is my understanding that the Executive Policy Committee will discuss the following item from the Standing Policy on Community Services at its next meeting: *"That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to initiate public consultations on a by-law to regulate private trees that the City currently has authority to regulate, as per the City of Winnipeg Charter, and the creation of a private tree by-law."*

On behalf of Trees Winnipeg, I would like to express support for the city to begin the public engagement process regarding the establishment of a tree protection bylaw as it awaits word on changes to its Charter.

There has been some good news on the tree front in recent years. The city provided multi-year funding to its first long-term Urban Forest Strategy in 2023. As a result, in 2024 the city planted as many trees as it removed, something that hasn't been achieved in decades.

Many community groups are adding to the city's tree canopy. Ours, for instance, from 2023 to 2025 has planted 173 trees at 30 schools, 439 trees at community plantings, and sold 1,987 trees to homeowners through our ReLeaf program.

The flip side to this news is the number of trees that our city is losing that are not counted by anyone.

In recent times, there have been two high-profile mass tree cuttings on land before any development plan had been approved. A few days ago, a local utility announced that it will cut down over 230 trees on city land without compensation, and the city is unable to do anything about it.

Events such as these are disheartening as they negate much of the work that the city and community organisations have been doing.

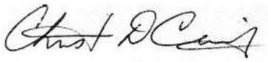
The Public Service has indicated that it wants to deliver a tree protection bylaw in the fourth quarter of 2026. That is less than a year away. There is no doubt that many individuals and organisations will want to provide input on the proposed protection bylaw.

Trees Winnipeg 1539 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 4V7 office@treeswinnipeg.org

It is for these reasons that I feel the city should start the public engagement process as soon as possible, so as not to hurry through an unsatisfactory protection bylaw or delay the implementation of one for months or longer.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Christian Cassidy
Executive Director,
Trees Winnipeg

Trees Winnipeg 1539 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 4V7 office@treeswinnipeg.org