THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

DATE: **May 17, 2020**   RESOLUTION NO. Choose an item.

THAT Council endorse the attached letter and resolution in support of NPCA's Request for Information submission in application to Growing Canada's Forests 2 Billion Trees initiative;

AND FURTHER that the Lord Mayor be authorized to sign the attached letter on behalf of Council.

Resolution for Municipal Partners – 2 Billion Trees Initiative

WHEREAS the federal government has announced the "Growing Canada's Forests" program as part of its 2 Billion Trees initiative, making substantial matching funding available to support reforestation efforts across the country;

WHEREAS this is a timely opportunity to attract federal investment towards implementing nature-based climate solutions in our communities through a strong and coordinated multi-partner approach across the Niagara Peninsula watershed;

WHEREAS the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is convening partners and collaborators towards a 10-year planning program for a Request for Information submission in application to Growing Canada's Forest Funding Program due May 27th 2021;

WHEREAS the NPCA has a well-established track record of reforestation with private and public landowners, non-governmental organizations, nature clubs, academic institutions and community groups, has the scientific know-how to identify land and tree species with the biggest ecological and climate benefits, and has partnerships in place to mobilize volunteers to plant and monitor trees;

AND WHEREAS the proposed opportunity aligns with the Municipal objectives, has the potential to provide multiscale benefits;

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Council endorse the attached letter in support of NPCA's Request for Information submission in application to Growing Canada's Forests 2 Billion Trees initiative;

AND FURTHER THAT staff continue to collaborate with NPCA and other partners in identifying planting opportunities and programs aligned with municipal priorities to be included in the full funding application should the Request for Information submission as an expression of interest be successful.

OFFICE OF THE LORD MAYOR
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
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May 11, 2021

RE: Letter of Support for NPCA Growing Canada's Forest Program 2 Billion Trees

To whom it may concern,

The Corporation of The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is pleased to support the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) application to the Growing Canada's Forests program under the 2 Billion Trees initiative.

We recognize the value of creating resilient forests here in Niagara. We are part of the Carolinian zone, the most diverse and fragile ecoregion in Canada. The opportunity to implement nature-based climate solutions towards enhancing our unique forest and urban tree canopy is significant. This initiative will help strengthen our existing commitments to enhance natural areas and address climate impacts in our municipality.

We are committed to working with the NPCA in the coming months to identify suitable land within our municipality where we can restore and expand tree cover. We also intend to cost-share planting projects to scale our planting efforts with Federal funding support.

With more than 60 years of expertise, the NPCA is ideally positioned to successfully implement this project. Their emphasis on evidence-based conservation will ensure we leverage forestry best practices tailored to our unique geography. Meanwhile, their collaborative approach means efforts will be strategic and well-coordinated with the region's many stakeholders and partners.

As one of those partners, we look forward to working alongside the NPCA to plant, grow and maintain forests within our jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Betty Disero
Lord Mayor