

November 23, 2013

Chair and Members  
Planning and Environment Committee  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, ON N6A 4L9

Dear Chair and Members:

**Re: Contract Renewal for the Management of Environmentally Significant Areas**

I note in the Agenda for the Planning and Environment Committee, in the report of John Fleming, Managing Director of Planning and City Planner, titled "CONTRACT RENEWAL for the MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 26, 2013", that "in order to meet the proposed 2014 Operating Budget target, the value of the contract in 2014 [between the City and the UTRCA] has been reduced by 15% (\$72,000) to \$408,066."

I also note that, under "ESA MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES and UTRCA "SOLE SOURCE" CONTRACT", the opening sentence states that

"The importance of proactive, on-going management of ESA lands continues to be a priority for the City of London, EEPAC, Nature London and the general public."

As a member of Nature London, I DO NOT SUPPORT ANY REDUCTION in the the current budget of the UTRCA Management Team, and would instead like to see an INCREASE in the budget to allow the hiring of an extra staff person, preferably an Enforcement Officer, to enforce London's Encroachment Program (Return to Nature), which came into effect earlier this year. It has become apparent that the existing team doesn't have sufficient time to enforce this policy adequately, and that the City isn't giving the policy "teeth". If necessary, municipal taxes should be raised to strengthen the Parks By-law in order to cover the cost of effective enforcement. There shouldn't have to be potential cutbacks in budgets for other programs, such as invasive species removal, to deal with anticipated costs to deal with encroachment into ESAs. If the Coves ESA, now the eighth public ESA, is also to be effectively managed by the UTRCA, surely an *increase*, rather than a 15% decrease, in the 2014 budget is called for?

If the City truly considers the importance of proactive on-going management of ESA lands to be a priority, as quoted above, **I urge you not to approve a 15% reduction in the budget for the ESA Management Team's activities for 2014**, for the sake of the promoting the best possible protection of London's ESAs.

It is unclear if you are being asked to approve the budget at the November 26 meeting, given that the full City budget has yet to be tabled. If the budget is to be considered during the budget debate, I request that this letter also appear on the appropriate agenda at budget time.

Yours truly,

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