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2 June 2014

City of London  
300 Dufferin Street  
London, ON N6A 4L9

Councilor Baechler and members of the Planning and Environment Committee,

This letter is with regard to the item on the committee's agenda with respect to the Urban Forest Strategy report for tomorrow, Tuesday, June 3. I would like to urge the committee to approve this very important plan to improve the quality of life here in the City of London.

I see four great advantages to this policy in terms of improving our local environment and the lives of the people of London:

1. This plan will protect the tree and natural resources of the city on public and private property. It will protect the integrity of our natural heritage.
2. This strategy also includes a provision for maintaining and monitoring our city's natural resources in the way of assisting the health and life of existing trees.
3. This plan also provides a plan for the planting of new trees. Given how our tree canopy in the London area is decreasing at this time, this strategy provides guidelines that will promote increasing this canopy and enhancing biodiversity and reduce sources of harm to our trees.
4. Most of all I like the idea of community engagement in the plan. Being a member of Reforest London and a Neighbourhood Tree Captain, I believe that

mobilizing and educating Londoners about trees and our urban forests that other sources of funding and support will materilize from this effort on the part of the City of London.

Please help us to **protect, preserve, maintain, enhance and engage** Londoners in this important work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary W. Smith

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