



Friends of the Earth
Les Ami(e)s de la Terre

Protecting the Earth for tomorrow / Pour protéger l'avenir de la Terre

August 15, 2014

Heather Lysynski, Committee Secretary
Planning and Environment Committee
London

Dear Ms. Lysynski,

Re: addition to the Pollinator Sanctuary Item from ACE Subcommittee

We write in support of the submission from the ACE Working Group, "London as a Pollinator Sanctuary". We congratulate London for its positive measures in support of pollinators to-date as noted in the ACE Subcommittee submission. However, the challenge faced by pollinators, wild and managed, is nothing short of catastrophic.

Friends of the Earth recognizes three significant stressors to pollinators - pesticides, habitat loss, and climate change. Friends of the Earth's recent research and report, *Gardeners Beware*, points to the hazards to pollinators from garden centre plants purporting to be "bee-friendly" though contaminated by neonicotinoids (pesticides). Measures such as adopting requirements for service suppliers to certify neonicotinoid-free products are important in addressing this threat to pollinators. (recommendation #7).

However, in order to give weight to all three significant stressors, we urge that you consider the overarching recommendation of adopting "Pollinator Sanctuary" as a designation in your Official Plan thereby signaling an important direction across many facets of London's life. The ten Recommendations put forward by the ACE Working Group on Plight of Pollinators are each important opportunities to begin to operationalize the designation. And, as we all learn more about, for example climate adaptation measures, we are confident that additional practical steps will be identified that will be good for your citizens and for pollinators.

We thank you for this opportunity to lend support to the good work of London citizens and look forward to learning about the results of your deliberations.

Sincerely yours,

Beatrice Olivastro
Chief Executive Officer



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