

Dear Councillor Cassidy,

I am writing to request delegation status at an upcoming meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee. I am a member of EEPAC, but I wish to apply for delegate status as a private citizen.

I would like to speak to PEC to provide an update on the development of the bird-friendly skies bylaw that was presented to the Committee [last November](#) by a delegation from Development Services. At the meeting, the first component of the bylaw targeting reductions in uplighting at night passed; however, the more consequential piece about bird-friendly glass requirements for new site plans was sent back for review. I was one of two people in the gallery at the meeting who spoke in support of the bylaw.

As a representative from EEPAC I participated in a subsequent working group hosted by Development Services and provided technical recommendations about matters related to the bylaw – principally how glass ought to be treated to prevent bird deaths. This is what I am studying for my PhD in Biology at the Advanced Facility for Avian Research at Western.

Over the past year, work on the glass component of the bylaw has stalled and I am unsure if or when it will resume. Last I heard the file was transferred to a different staff portfolio but working group members have not been updated on its status since February. Given that this update to the bylaw language was requested by PEC, I would like to communicate to PEC directly about why completion of this work is important and worth pursuing sooner than later.

I believe there are very simple provisions that could be incorporated into requirements for new site plans that would amount to London saving the lives of thousands of migratory birds each year. London can easily base its requirements for new builds on common-sense bird-friendly bylaws already adopted in other municipalities, and base guidelines for developers (still in draft) on the CSA 2019 Bird Friendly Building Design Standard. I would be happy to summarize these recommendations for the Committee's review.

I have personally documented hundreds of bird-window collisions in London in the past two years, spanning 74 bird species including 7 bird Species at Risk that are protected by Ontario's Endangered Species Act. To complement the City's other efforts to preserve natural heritage and biodiversity, including updating the Environmental Management Guidelines and developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan, I believe London should swiftly update building design requirements in new site plans in order to curb the growth of this already widespread threat to indigenous birds. I am eager to help develop the City's [existing communications](#) about preventing bird-window collisions which are lacking essential information.

To support the discussion with PEC about London's bird-friendly skies, I would ask that Development Services also send a representative to provide a status update on the file.

Please let me know if you require any additional information. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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