

From: Marianne Larsen

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 7:24 PM

To: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Citizen input on budget amendments: Time to Act on the Climate Emergency Action Plan

Dear Mayor Holder and London City Councillors,

I am writing to you because of my concerns about the climate crisis. The City of London declared a climate emergency in April 2019. I acknowledge and thank City staff for progress in developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan and a Climate Lens to apply to major projects. However, the City of London needs to move more rapidly in addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures to meet the goals of our Climate Emergency Action Plan.

I urge you to support without delay two particular budget amendments as outlined here.

First, I would like to begin with the budget amendment P-10 Zero-Emission Bus Implementation Strategy. Other Canadian cities are already using battery electric buses and moving to an all-electric fleet will take time. Research demonstrates that battery electric buses are the best option in terms of the initial costs of shifting a fleet of internal combustion engine buses to electricity. It is important to advance this pilot project quickly in order to ensure we can participate in consortium joint procurements and also ensure full participation in federal government funding opportunities. A delay could potentially jeopardize these. It also sends an important message to residents and businesses that climate action needs to happen immediately.

Additionally, it is important that London Transit obtains this important experience with battery electric buses prior to future fleet replacement needs. Not prioritizing and then buying diesel buses as replacement in the future would be inconsistent with the Climate Emergency declaration.

Second, I would like to address the Budget Amendment Waste Water Tax Levy-1 Capital program for Sewage Bypass and Overflow Elimination. We need to re-invest savings from reduced energy costs at Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plant in a number of initiatives to eliminate sewage bypass and overflow events. Although there are planned projects for wastewater / rainwater separation these additional capital items can demonstrate our commitment and respect to our Indigenous neighbours downstream. It would also be consistent with the City of London declaring itself a Blue Community, which recognizes water and sanitation as a human right.

We are already experiencing more intense rainfall and other extreme weather events that result in these bypass and overflow events. Recent climate crisis related events across Canada such as flooding in BC have clearly shown that climate crisis impacts are real and are happening quicker than previously forecasted. The current projected increase in the Wastewater budget is reasonable therefore I urge you to support the use of the cost savings for these capital projects.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne A. Larsen

Cathcart Street, London, ON N6C 3L5

I am located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples who have cared for this land since time immemorial. These lands including the contemporary city of London, Ontario are connected through various treaties between Indigenous nations, the Crown and Canadian government and include the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples who are contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society. I am grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory, and seek to reconcile relationships with the Indigenous peoples of this land, so that we can live in respect, peace and right relations with one another.