

Dear Committee Members,

It has never been fully explained to Londoners why Reptilia needs an exemption to the Animal Control By-law.

Can you please clarify this for us?

Everything I have read about this issue states that Reptilia has permission from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to display prohibited 'at risk' native reptiles and there is no limits to displaying non-prohibited species. So why are Councillors so fervent about an exemption to the animal control by-law?

It makes me feel uneasy. I think it is important to explain this to Londoners.

Reptilia can open their doors without an exemption. I feel Council is wasting a lot of time on this issue. I don't think Londoners want this sort of entertainment in their city. People have moved on from this sort of business and generally people have become more sensitive to the fate of animals captivity. Also, don't believe this will be a tourist attraction. It has been reported that Reptilia does not attract tourism outside of the city of Vaughan or Whitby. They make their money by hosting events at their facility such as birthday parties, sell pet products for reptiles and has a travelling roadshow. I don't understand how a by-law exemption fits into this business model.

Respectfully,

Susan Thompson

I would appreciate if my letter can be added to the public agenda.