

## Report to London Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

Meeting on December 7, 2022

Recommendation on Spending the Committee's Annual Budget

**Recommendation: We propose using the entirety of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee 2022 budget (\$1500.00) to purchase kits of Feather Friendly DIY tape to be distributed to residents in the City of London.** The City of London Animal Welfare Advisory Committee submitted a similar budget request in November; we would like to pool the two Committees' budgets together to increase the available funding to support this initiative.

The ESACAC mandate includes: *1) the development and monitoring of London's Urban Forest Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan and a resource for other related policies and strategies; 2) the maximization of the retention of trees and natural areas; and 3) other aspects of environmental concerns as may be suggested by the Municipal Council, its other Committees, or the Civic Administration.* Our proposal aligns with each of these components of the Committee's mandate. Birds provide many biodiversity services that are essential to the health of London's natural heritage system and urban forests. For example, birds disperse seeds and pollinate flowers, both of which are key mechanisms for conserving trees and other indigenous vegetation in natural areas. However, birds are now facing serious declines across North America, and collisions with windows are a leading source of preventable mortality. In London, it is estimated that many thousands of birds are killed by collisions with windows each year, and most of that mortality is likely caused by windows on residential homes as the most numerous type of structure. This threat to birds in London inspired the previous City Council to adopt the City of London's Bird Friendly Skies program, which aims to "preserve local bird species" and "reduce the number of birds colliding with buildings". Yet, to date, the program does not offer much support for homeowners to address collision risk at existing buildings.

The Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee would like to continue our efforts to make London a Bird Friendly City. Indeed, London was certified by Nature Canada in 2021 as one of the first Bird Friendly Cities in the country. We believe that through this use of our Committee budget, we can make an impact on threat reduction, education and outreach. Specifically, we want to inform property owners and tenants that they can prevent bird-window collisions by voluntarily adopting bird-friendly window collision tape (among other viable collision prevention methods). Providing the materials for treating windows at no cost to property owners will remove a barrier to their adoption.

[Feather Friendly® window collision prevention tape](#) is available to purchase online as well as locally in London. The tape is designed to alert birds to a window without obstructing the view from inside the building, and without damaging the window. The tape creates a pattern on the outside of the glass with ¼ inch square markers pre-spaced in a 2 inch by 2 inch grid. Each box contains a roll of 100 feet of tape, which is enough to cover 30 inches by 80 inches of window

glass. At local retailers, the retail price of one box is \$19.50 at Featherfields, \$24.90 at Lee Valley Hardware, and \$24.99 at Wild Birds Unlimited. However, the Chair of ESACAC has access to wholesale pricing from the manufacturer, and could acquire the kits for \$12.48 each plus HST (e.g., with both committees' funds, \$3000 would cover 210 kits, including tax).

Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada estimates that on average, 1 to 10 birds are killed by colliding with windows on a single building each year. Based on this range, our initiative would amount to saving 210 to 2,100 birds in London each year, scaling up to 2,100 to 21,000 birds across the minimum lifespan of the tape (10 years post-installation). By these calculations, the investment by the City of London through this budget would equal approximately 7 birds' lives saved for every dollar spent.

Distribution of the window collision tape would be done in partnership with London's Bird Team, which includes the London Environmental Network, Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre and other community partners. We will also explore a partnership with the London Public Library. Through these collaborations, we hope to promote access to the kits for low-income households and target buildings that have recently experienced bird collisions.

Purchasing of the kits can be arranged through Brendon Samuels, Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee Chair. Please contact Brendon for more information.

