



Together we make a difference

October 7, 2019

Good evening Chair Kearns, Mayor Meed-Ward, Members of Council, staff and the Burlington Community,

I'm pleased to be here this evening on behalf of BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association to speak briefly regarding the proposed city-wide tree protection bylaw implementation [report](#).

We are supportive of Option 4 which would advance a tree protection bylaw to encompass the entire city and to invest in the resources required to make this happen.

As I mentioned in an email sent to all of you on the weekend, BG has advocated on this issue many times during the past 9+ years. And in November of 2012 we specifically delegated to Council about the implications of not putting the required funding behind the execution of the UFMP (noting both the 2011 and 2012 budgets did not support the resource requirements of the UFMP, and now we understand a new UFMO is to be commissioned).

We believe **this is the Council** to finally get this right – making the investment necessary.

I'm not here to debate the value of a tree protection bylaw – BG and many delegates from the community over many years have already argued the irrefutable rationale for tree protection as well as planting more trees as well as associated education and establishing a tree target. A holistic and cohesive approach is required but to be successful on this you need all the tools in the shed. Not an either/or situation.

The science is in. The facts are in. We are experiencing a climate and ecological disaster. All of you voted unanimously declaring in April that we have a climate emergency on our hands. Every community need at a minimum to advance meaningful actions to demonstrate bold climate mitigation measures. Protecting trees isn't bold – it's basic stuff.

So when I saw this video with Greta and George, I thought it was spot on to reflect what BG has been advocating for many years now. And I respectfully ask that as you view it, think of the local context – we need to PROTECT. RESTORE. & FUND

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q0xUXo2zEY>

Thank you very much.