




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	June 6, 2022
SUBJECT:	Forestry sending help to Ottawa and Peterborough (City Wide) (ES22007)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Acting Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to provide details on the City of Hamilton's (City) response to the request to provide Urban Forestry support to both the City of Ottawa and City of Peterborough after the severe weather event on Saturday May 21st, 2022. Hamilton staff received requests to aide in City of Ottawa's and City of Peterborough's forestry clean up efforts as both municipalities are faced with widespread damage that exceeds their own staff resources to address.

A request from the City of Ottawa for support was made based on membership in the RPWCO Urban Forestry Sub-committee. Since the City of Hamilton had only mild forestry impacts from the storm, it was discussed that there may be opportunity to provide Urban Forestry support and staff suggested the discussion be elevated to senior management.

A similar request from the City of Peterborough was made through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre to Connie Verhaeghe, Senior Emergency Manager, Hamilton Fire Department from the City of Peterborough. The request was forwarded to Cynthia Graham, Acting Director of Environmental Services.

Based on current Forestry operations and service levels, Hamilton's Forestry staff determined that storm related service requests received by the Hamilton residents could be resolved in a timely manner and therefore had capacity to provide aide to both requesting cities. Hamiltonians will remember how intense the clean-up was after Hamilton experienced the ice storm in late December 2013, and staff worked tirelessly

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Forestry sending help to Ottawa
(ES22007) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2**

for a significant period to manage the impacts. Staff therefore want to assist where possible, and anticipate that if the circumstances were reversed in the future, the support would be returned. A Mutual Aid Emergency Response agreement was drafted and reviewed by both cities and their respective Legal, Human Resources, and Finance staff to ensure the support being provided aligned with collective agreements, policies and procedures. In addition, City staff communicated a summary of details to CUPE to ensure their support which was received.

The agreement describes the support being provided in terms of staff, equipment and duration of support as well as financial and liability terms such that the City will provide a Forestry Supervisor, crew of Arborists, trucks, chippers, and tools to perform Urban Forestry work. During this time, all costs for accommodations, wages, operational costs including fuel, will be covered by the requesting City.

Forestry will provide support to the City of Ottawa from June 13th to 17th, 2022 and to the City of Peterborough from June 20th to 24th, 2022.

In anticipation of an increase in frequency of extreme storms in Ontario and requests for help from municipalities in the future, staff will bring a report to standardize mutual aid agreement conditions and to establish delegated authority in 2023 for consideration for the new term of council.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.