

May 1, 2023

Mayor and Council
City of Edmonton
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7

**Canadian
Home Builders'
Association**



Re: May 2, 2023 Urban Planning Committee Agenda Item 7.1 – City Plan – New Urban Trees

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Canadian Home Builders' Association-Edmonton Region (CHBA-ER) is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 400 member companies in the region including builders, renovators, land developers, trades, suppliers and more. CHBA-ER members are proud to have built 80% of new units in Edmonton in 2022.

This letter addresses an item scheduled for the May 2 Urban Planning Committee meeting: Item 7.1 – City Plan – New Urban Trees

CHBA-ER recognizes the environmental, ecological, economic, and social benefits of Edmonton's urban forest and understands that trees are valuable assets that should be preserved and protected during construction. We are encouraged to see that the goal of planting two million urban trees by 2030, outlined in the City Plan, is predicted to be achieved through current initiatives. CHBA-ER supports the recommendations outlined in the report to increase incentives and programs for tree planting, retention, and preservation on private land. CHBA-ER supports the recommendation to not pursue a private tree bylaw but rather for administration to continue to focus on stewardship and incentive options.

Great strides have been made in the past number of years to encourage the retention of trees on private property and protect City-owned trees, including the creation of the Public Tree Protection Bylaw which CHBA-ER was pleased to have collaborated with the City on. CHBA-ER members often take great lengths to retain existing trees. Regulating trees located on private property would present significant barriers to redevelopment and disincentivize densification which does not align with the City Plan. Tree preservation efforts must be balanced with the City's goals for increased densification to ensure that Edmonton continues to be a city that provides ample housing choice for our growing population.

The City Plan sets the target of achieving balanced growth between infill and greenfield to a city of two million people. To achieve that goal, the growth in both existing and establishing areas must be supported by City Administration and Council. As your city-building partners, CHBA-ER is here to help provide solutions to achieve the City Plan's growth targets while maintaining housing affordability. We look forward to engagement on the Greener As We Grow Project throughout 2023.

Sincerely,

Laura Bruno
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Home Builders' Association – Edmonton Region