



# SOS Trees Coalition

██████ - 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, SASKATOON, SK. ██████

[www.sostrees.ca](http://www.sostrees.ca)

July 16, 2021

Dear Mayor Clark and members of City Council,

Re: Landfill fees for disposal of Elm Tree cuttings

With the increasing risk and recent findings of Dutch Elm Disease in Saskatoon, SOS Trees Coalition believes we need to take every possible step to protect Saskatoon's beautiful elm canopy.

A large portion of the urban forest consists of American & Siberian Elm trees and a major concern is in maintaining these trees by removing deadwood that attracts the elm bark beetle. The City maintains street and park trees on a 7-year pruning cycle. Private land owners maintain their trees on an "as needed" basis. Because of the issues of disease spread through contamination both parties are required to dispose of elm tree cuttings at the City's landfill site instead of its composting and recycling site. Private land owners and landscape contractors must pay a substantial tipping fee to dispose of their elm tree debris at a cost of \$130 per ton at the landfill as required by the City. We have been informed that in cases of logs with a diameter of 10" or larger and 3' long, an additional surcharge of \$275 (even if it is only one log in the entire load) is charged. This fee is essentially a disincentive for the protection of Saskatoon's urban forest and the public good the forest provides. Private arborist companies now have to spend more time cutting logs smaller, and the fees for elm wood disposal will be passed on to the customer. It also has the unintended negative effect when, to save money, a property owner dumps their cuttings surreptitiously along the river bank, in one of the City's afforestation areas, in some other out-of-sight area or cuts it up for firewood. This causes a further unmonitored threat in the spread of the Dutch Elm Disease. We don't want to see this happen.

The City of Moose Jaw waives the fee for elm wood. Edmonton has various disposal sites around the city for ease of elm wood removal. Saskatoon needs to come up with a way to encourage citizens to not only have their trees pruned at a rate that is affordable but also to dispose of wood according to provincial guidelines. **We respectfully request the City of Saskatoon to eliminate all landfill fees for the safe disposal of elm, as an important contribution to the preservation of Saskatoon's urban forest.**

Yours truly,

Linda Moskalyk

President, SOS Tree Coalition