
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Tom Gode - Removal of Disposal Fees for Elm Wood at the City Landfill - CK 7830-1
Attachments: letter_to_committee.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 7:09 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Tom Gode - Removal of Disposal Fees for Elm Wood at the City Landfill - CK 7830-1

--- Replies to this email will go to trees@sostrees.ca ---

Submitted on Sunday, October 3, 2021 - 19:09

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, October 03, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Tom

Last Name Gode

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] 2nd Street East

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) SOS Trees Coalition

Subject Elimination of landfill fees on elm wood

Meeting (if known) The Standing Policy Committee of Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services.

Comments Eliminate all landfill fees on elm wood.

Attachments

[REDACTED]

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[REDACTED]

4 October, 2021

To: The Standing Policy Committee of Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services.

Re: The removal of disposal fees for elm wood at the City landfill

The removal of all fees for the disposal of elm wood is a proactive approach to begin addressing the catastrophic plague of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) inching its way into Saskatoon.

As you are aware, the protection of our trees is one of the most significant strategies a city can undertake to reduce air pollution and mitigate climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. They filter the air, have a cooling effect through shading and transpiration and assist in reducing water run-off and erosion. By mitigating the heat sink created by dense urban development they help reduced heating costs and air-conditioning cost. In particular our heritage elms cathedral like canopy are a key to many of our older neighborhood's identity.

History has demonstrated that each time a community skimps on prevention of Dutch Elm Disease they pay a heavy price. You can read each year where Winnipeg hopes to catch up with the removal of dead elm next year while spending millions in tree removal. For example, In 2017, Winnipeg needed to allocate 4.28 million for tree removal, that was on top of their annual removal budget & 380,000 additional transferred from their capital budget and still projected nearly a \$700,000 over run. In Minnesota it became so bad that cities needed to reimburse private tree owners for tree removal to try to get ahead of the disease.

If we expect private home owners or the tree service companies they contract to dispose of elm wood in the best possible manner then we have to make it accessible and practical. When a tree removal can cost upward to \$20,000 adding disposal fees just adds insult to injury and becomes one more barrier to timely removal. We all know that trees are a part of the city infrastructure, regardless if they are public or private, we all benefit from them.

The loss of revenue by eliminating all fees on elm wood seems prudent to protect Saskatoon's investment in public trees valued at \$530 million.

Let's accept that it is our civic duty to protect the urban forest and remove all landfill fees from elm wood.

Respectfully

Tom Gode
SOS Trees Coalition