

February 6, 2019

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Travis Rob, Manager of Operations and Facilities

RE: Adoption of a Tree Canopy Policy

With changes made to the Municipal Act in 2018, a new requirement was brought forward for municipalities to adopt a policy on how the municipality planned to maintain and enhance their municipal tree canopy. This Municipal Tree Canopy Policy has to be in place by March 1, 2019 under the new Municipal Act.

The Operations and Facilities Division currently looks after the removal of problem trees on municipal property within the Town of Fort Frances and does so as required throughout town. By the nature of their role with municipal trees, it would make sense that the O&F Division would put together a draft policy. In addition, the Town has some old and very dated by-laws surrounding tree planting within the Municipality as well as a policy statement passed by By-Law October 27, 2003. The Chief Building Official/Municipal Planner was brought onboard to help with the policy and develop a new by-law to work in conjunction with the policy moving forward as there is a role in enhancing the Municipal Tree Canopy during development activities within the Town. The new Tree Maintenance and Installation By-law will come through the Planning and Development Executive Committee in the coming weeks.

One of the ways presented in the policy that the Town is looking to enhance its tree canopy would be by starting a Memorial Tree Program similar to the memorial benches seen along the La Verendrye Parkway currently. This would allow for a memorial tree to be planted at an approved location on municipal property. Similar to the bench program, the person(s) requesting the tree would be responsible to pay for the tree and plaque with the Town forces completing the planting of the tree.

It is the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee to approve the Tree Canopy Policy dated February 2019.

Respectfully Submitted



Travis Rob, P.Eng
Manager of Operations and Facilities

<p>Council approval of this report will agree with the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee to approve the Tree Canopy Policy dated February 2019.</p>
