

April 24, 2024

To: Mayor Andrea Matrosovs, Deputy Mayor Peter Bordignon, Councillor Gail Ardiel, Councillor Paula Hope, Councillor June Porter, Councillor Alex Maxwell, Councillor Shawn McKinlay

Copy to: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk, Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Humphries, C.E.T. Senior Infrastructure Capital Project Coordinator, Jamie Witherspoon, P.Eng. Consulting Engineer

From: Betty Muise, Tree Trust TBM

Re: **CSOPS.24.018 - 125 Peel Street South Servicing PIC Follow up**

I am writing on behalf of Tree Trust TBM regarding the above referenced staff report. As mentioned in an earlier letter (March 20, 2024), I believe that residents are looking for the Town to prioritize trees and nature preservation. Healthy, established trees and the natural ecosystems they support are not easily replaced and, unfortunately, they are being lost to various development and infrastructure projects in TBM at an alarming rate. Town projects – from assessment through to design and implementation – can and should prioritize preservation of trees as an integral part of protecting our natural assets.

Rather than being rushed into the design and construction aspects of this project (the specifics of which are outlined as recommendations on page one of the staff report), the community should be allowed to consider the full range of studies and complete information associated with a decision that has such far reaching impacts on natural systems and the community. At this point we have only a concept plan prepared by the Campus of Care developers. There are many aspects of this project yet to be determined, including a more accurate understanding of site planning, a Transportation and Traffic Impact study that is still underway, and a Tree Inventory that has not been completed. (I would also like to point out that examining trees after leaf-out is an important aspect of assessing tree vigor – there is more to tree assessment than structure.)

Finally, I believe that TBM needs to consider greater flexibility in the application of design standards to allow greater responsiveness to neighbourhood circumstances while also creating greater opportunities for tree and tree canopy preservation.

Betty Muise
Tree Trust TBM