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October 17, 2017

City of Sarnia Council
255 North Christina Street
P.O. Box 3018
Sarnia, ON N7T 7N2

RE: Tree By-Law Consultations

Mayor Bradley and Members of Council,

The Sarnia Lambton Chamber represents more than 400 businesses located in the city of Sarnia. On behalf of these members, we urge Council to defer its decision on the proposed tree by-law. Although the Chamber supports its intent, which is to protect trees from unnecessary damage and destruction, we believe there are more effective and fairer methods that can be identified with further research and consultations.

Over the past several months local businesses and residents have voiced strong concerns about the draft tree by-law, as communicated to you in our letter dated July 27, 2017. Aside from the serious concerns of property rights, increased costs and regulations, our members feel that our tree canopy would be better protected by encouraging planting and restoration rather than penalizing removals. In fact, such enforcement can actually lead to fewer new trees being planted and instigate a surge of removals prior to enforcement.

The Chamber encourages the City of Sarnia to find a reasonable and fair solution to protect our natural heritage. There are number of other solutions, such as requiring a new tree be planted for each tree that is removed, and increasing education on good arboricultural practices.

Thank you again for consulting the public on this issue. To continue this dicussion, please contact our office at any time by calling Shirley de Silva, President and CEO at 519-336-2400.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S de Silva".

Shirley de Silva
President and CEO

C: Margaret Misek-Evans, Chief Administrative Officer
Alan Shaw, Director of Planning, Building and By-Law Enforcement

The Business Voice of Choice