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**Subject:** 2 Billion Trees, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Request  
For Information Submission

**Report to:** Regional Council

**Report date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021

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### **Recommendations**

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the attached resolution in Appendix 1 to Report CAO 8-2021 endorsing the NPCA request for information for the “2 Billion Trees – Growing Canada’s Forests” initiative; and
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer **BE AUTHORIZED** to issue the letter of support for the project attached as Appendix 2 to Report CAO 8-2021.

### **Key Facts**

- The federal government is currently accepting Request for Information (RFI) towards “2 Billion Trees - Growing Canada’s Forests” initiative
- The federal government is committed to planting 2 billion trees over the next 10 years as one of the ways to achieving their goal of net-zero greenhouse emissions
- NPCA is seeking Regional Council endorsement of their RFI submission to this initiative
- The deadline for the RFI submission is May 27, 2021

### **Financial Considerations**

There is no financial commitment being made as part of the RFI submission.

If the submission were accepted, a 50% funding contribution from the applicant (NPCA) would be required. Details on the funding contribution will be determined at the time of project proposal and will be brought to Council for further consideration.

### **Analysis**

The NPCA is leading this RFI, in collaboration with the 12 local municipalities and the Niagara Region. In addition, the submission will also include areas of Hamilton and Haldimand that are within NPCA watershed. The NPCA RFI is premised on the concept of planting 2 billion trees over a 10-year period throughout NPCA watershed.

The NPCA would be the lead agency for the project implementation and a representative from each municipality would be made available to assist.

The tree planting initiative would look at establishing new plantings on municipal lands, private lands, conservation areas and other partnerships. The project would allow the NPCA and Niagara municipalities to carry out a significant tree-planting program with cost sharing from the federal government.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

N/A

### **Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities**

The 2 Billion Trees project will support the following Strategic objective:

Objective 3.2: Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship

- Drive environmental protection and addressing climate change such as through increasing waste diversion rates and reducing our carbon footprint

### **Other Pertinent Reports**

N/A

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### **Submitted by:**

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Acting Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Diana Morreale, Director Development Approvals.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1                      Resolution to support the NPCA 2 Billion Trees RFI

Appendix 2

Draft Letter of Support