

2 Billion Trees Initiative Resolution

WHEREAS the federal government has announced the “Growing Canada’s Forests” program as part of its 2 Billion Trees initiative, making substantial matching funding available to support reforestation efforts across the country;

WHEREAS this is a timely opportunity to attract federal investment towards implementing nature-based climate solutions in our communities through a strong and coordinated multi-partner approach across the Niagara Peninsula watershed;

WHEREAS the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is convening partners and collaborators towards a 10-year planning program for a Request for Information submission in application to Growing Canada’s Forest Funding Program due May 27th 2021;

WHEREAS the NPCA has a well-established track record of reforestation with private and public landowners, non-governmental organizations, nature clubs, academic institutions and community groups, has the scientific know-how to identify land and tree species with the biggest ecological and climate benefits, and has partnerships in place to mobilize volunteers to plant and monitor trees;

WHEREAS the proposed opportunity aligns with the Municipal objectives, has the potential to provide multiscale benefits;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council **ENDORSE** the attached letter in support of NPCA’s Request for Information submission in application to Growing Canada’s Forests 2 Billion Trees initiative; and

THAT staff **CONTINUE** to collaborate with NPCA and other partners in identifying planting opportunities and programs aligned with municipal priorities to be included in the full funding application should the Request for Information submission as an expression of interest be successful.