



MOTION ON NOTICE

Official Tree for Vancouver

MOVER: Commissioner Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver has an official flag, badge, coat of arms, mace, flower, colour or emblem;
2. The City of Vancouver does not have an official tree;
3. The Vancouver Park Board is responsible for the care and maintenance of Vancouver's urban forest, including 140,000 street trees and 300,000 park trees;
4. Vancouver's tree canopy has declined since 1995 from 22% to 18%;
5. The Vancouver Park Board recently held its inaugural Tree Week celebrating the role trees play in our health and wellbeing such as: cleaning the air, absorbing carbon dioxide to mitigate climate change, managing rainwater, providing wildlife habitat, providing access to nature and tourism. Tree Week was embraced by residents across the city with activities from tree sales to walks and events all designed to increase appreciation for our urban forest;
6. The official Vancouver Cherry Blossom festival just celebrated its 10th anniversary with the Park Board as its presenting sponsor;
7. In 2017 Canada will mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation providing an opportunity to celebrate our land;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation embark on a process to select an official tree for Vancouver with the official tree to be announced during Tree Week 2017; and
- B. THAT the process to select an official tree for Vancouver shall involve the public and provide an opportunity for the public to learn about and nominate worthy tree species for consideration; and
- C. THAT the final selection of an official tree shall be completed by a panel with expertise in forest diversity in concert with public input, to provide balance and due consideration of indigenous tree species in the selection process and in the overall urban forest; and
- D. THAT the Park Board explore opportunities to engage the Vancouver School Board to consider how students could be engaged in the process to nominate and select an official tree for Vancouver; and



- E. THAT upon selection of an official tree, the Vancouver Park Board formally asks the City of Vancouver to endorse and adopt the official tree selected.