



MOTION on NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on July 8, 2019

Urban Forestry & Climate Emergency Action Plan

MOVER: Commissioner Demers

WHEREAS:

1. The Park Board is responsible for all trees found on public land in Vancouver;
2. The vision of the Urban Forest Strategy, a priority under the Greenest City Action Plan, is to protect, plant, and manage trees to create a diverse, resilient, and beautiful urban forest, with a target to increase the urban forest canopy cover to 22% by 2050;
3. On February 23 2016 (updated May 11 2017), Metro Vancouver published a report titled: [Urban Forest Climate Adaptation Framework for Metro Vancouver – Tree Species Selection, Planting and Management](#) (the framework), in which the Park Board was involved;
4. The conclusion of the framework identified “multiple research questions (...) that would benefit urban forest planners in Metro Vancouver”;
5. On January 17 2019, the City of Vancouver declares a climate emergency; and
6. In response to the climate emergency declaration, the City of Vancouver approved the [Climate Emergency Response report](#) in April 2019, which included [Six Big Moves](#); move #6 titled “Restored Forests and Coast” falls under Park Board jurisdiction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work in collaboration with Metro Vancouver and regional member on the findings of the May 2017 report titled [Urban Forest Climate Adaption Framework for Metro Vancouver](#) and develop a plan to further investigate the following areas:
 - i. climate change forecast/modelling and its expected impact on the urban forest*, with consideration given to work already underway, with Metro Vancouver reports specifically noting that increasing windstorms are one of the expected impacts and protective measures should be further investigated;
 - ii. evaluation of said expected impacts on current public urban forest and establishment of an optimal ‘mitigation toolkit’ with budget implications that should include, but not be limited to, active and passive irrigation measures and implementation of soil volume/quality measures at time of planting and during site preparation;



- iii. academic exploration of the foreseeable removal and/or addition of tree taxa in our urban forestry strategy, with consideration detailed to the level of species and consideration given to, but not exclusively, geographic provenance and improved selections;
 - iv. feasibility of establishing an in situ and/or ex situ trial for taxa identified in exploration described above; and
 - v. potential introduction of genetic variability ('assisted migration') in our natural urban forests to help foster adaptability to changes to come by studying existing trees in growing conditions similar to expected conditions in Vancouver parks, and by collaborating with the Ministry of Forests and Rangelands who have extensive research to build upon.
- B. FURTHER THAT the plan to further investigate include the participation of, but not exclusively, representatives of academia and botanical institutions, indigenous forestry researchers, arborists and climatologists.

**urban forest includes trees in wild and/or naturalized areas, as well as street and park trees, native or introduced.*