

**REPORT NO. 308** of the  
**ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
of its meeting held October 21, 2015

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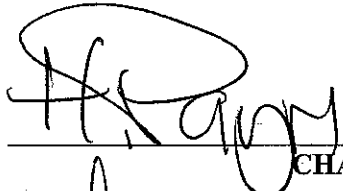
**Present:** Councillor Fred Francis  
Councillor Chris Holt  
Councillor Hilary Payne (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Paul Borrelli

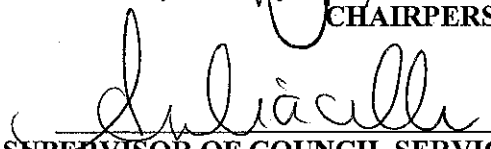
**Regrets:** Councillor Bill Marra

That the following recommendations of the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee **BE APPROVED:**

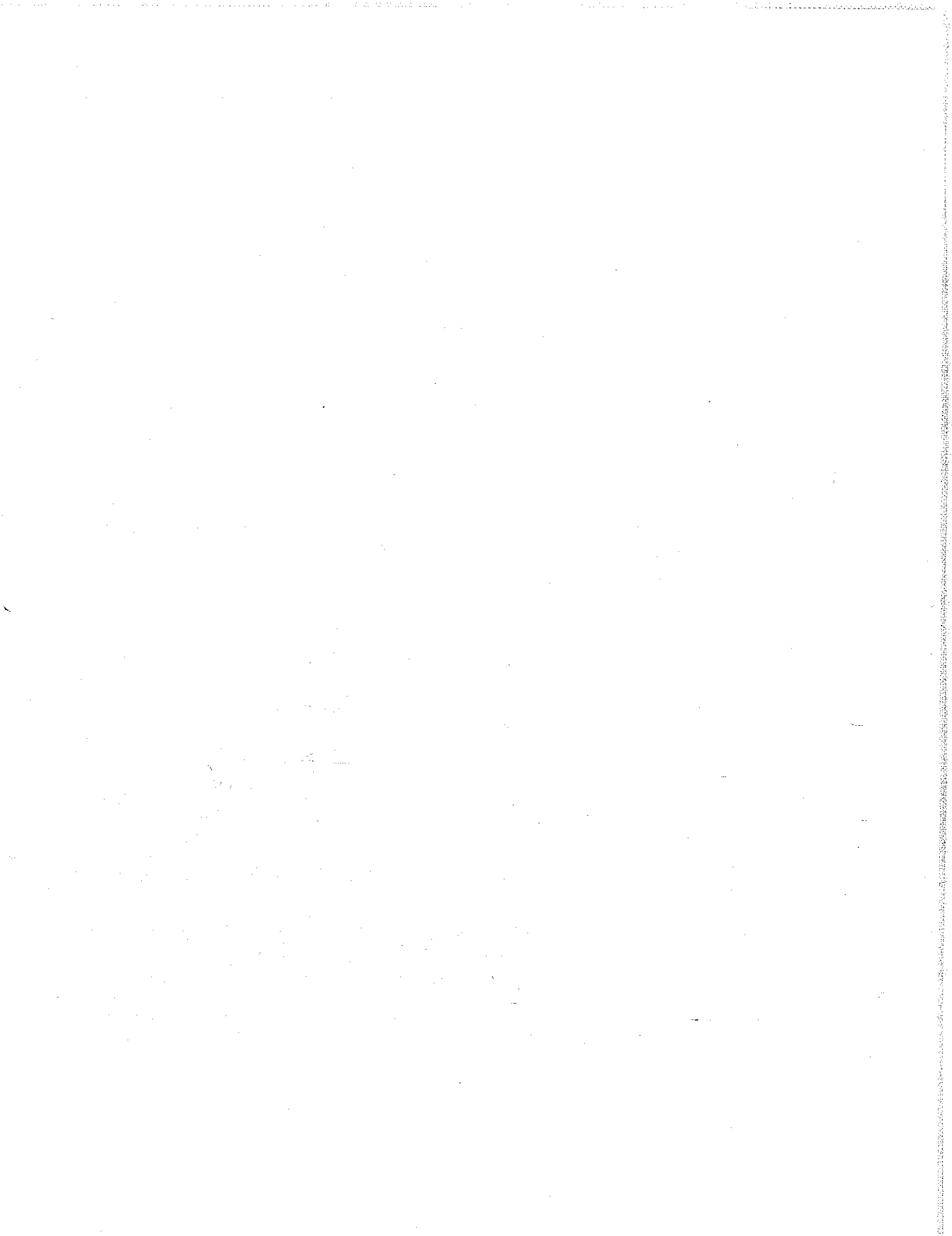
Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Councillor Holt,  
That Report No. 92 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee  
(Ontario's Urban Forests Call to Action – Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition) **BE APPROVED.**  
Carried.

Clerk's Note: Report No. 92 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (Ontario's Urban Forests Call to Action – Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition) is **attached** as background information.

  
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CHAIRPERSON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERVISOR OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NOTIFICATION:	
NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION



**REPORT NO. 92**  
of the  
**WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (WECEC)**  
of its meeting held  
July 30, 2015  
at 5:30 o'clock p.m.  
Ojibway Nature Centre

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**Members present at the July 30, 2015 meeting:**

Councillor Bill Marra, Chair  
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh, Vice Chair  
Councillor Fred Francis  
Derek Coronado  
Mike Nelson  
Joe Passa  
Dr. Edwin Tam  
Radwan Tamr

**Your Committee submits the following recommendation:**

Moved by M. Nelson, seconded by D. Coronado,  
That City/County Councils **BE REQUESTED** to support the Call To Action to join the Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition to realize the vision for the conservation, maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure across Ontario.  
Carried.

**Note:** The document entitled "Ontario's Urban Forests Call To Action – Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition" is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

NOTIFICATION	
NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
WECEC Committee including resource personnel	On file
Mary Brennan, Director of Council Service/Clerk, County of Essex	<a href="mailto:mbrennan@countyofessex.on.ca">mbrennan@countyofessex.on.ca</a>
Cheryl Bondy, Clerk – Town of Essex	<a href="mailto:cbondy@essex.ca">cbondy@essex.ca</a>
Ruth Orton-Pert, Director of Corporate Services, Town of Kingsville	<a href="mailto:rorton-pert@kingsville.ca">rorton-pert@kingsville.ca</a>
Mary Masse, Town Clerk, Town of Leamington	<a href="mailto:mmasse@lakeshore.ca">mmasse@lakeshore.ca</a>
Brenda Andreatta, Clerk, Town of LaSalle	<a href="mailto:bandreat@town.lasalle.on.ca">bandreat@town.lasalle.on.ca</a>

Brian Sweet, Clerk, Town of Leamington	<a href="mailto:clerks@leamington.ca">clerks@leamington.ca</a>
Laura Moy, Clerk, Town of Tecumseh	<a href="mailto:lmoy@tecumseh.ca">lmoy@tecumseh.ca</a>
Brenda Percy, Clerk, Town of Amherstburg	<a href="mailto:bpercy@amherstburg.ca">bpercy@amherstburg.ca</a>



# ONTARIO'S URBAN FORESTS

CALL TO ACTION

 Green  
Infrastructure  
ONTARIO COALITION



# THE NEED FOR GREEN

**Urban forests are an important green infrastructure asset for communities across Ontario.** However, the capacity of urban forests to support healthy and resilient cities is constrained and challenged by stressors such as climate change impacts, urban development pressures, altered soils, and invasive species. Now more than ever there is a critical need to sustain large, healthy, genetically appropriate trees and shrubs on public and private land through long-term planning and budgeting, inclusive decision-making, and strategic policy development that supports adaptive management. Thus, comprehensive urban forest support must extend well beyond tree planting initiatives.

Management of urban forests is often considered the sole responsibility of municipal governments. In reality, responsibility should also be shared by private citizens, community groups, schools and other institutions, industry and provincial and federal governments. **All of these groups have important roles to play.** Successful management frameworks must recognize that the urban forest is part of a complex system that includes the built environment, and is influenced by human activities and policies and practices that shape Ontario's urban regions. Furthermore, decision-making must be made in the context of future uncertainty associated with climate change.

**The Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition (GIO)** is an alliance of businesses, not-for-profit organizations, community groups and local governments working to promote green infrastructure across the province. Ontario's Urban Forests Call to Action is a coordinated approach, led by GIO, which aims to increase the collective capacity of all urban forest stakeholders in the province. This document is intended to:

1. Promote a collective agenda for necessary policy changes.
2. Create a platform for collaborative action towards key strategic priorities.
3. Support the exchange of resources, knowledge and expertise from across the province.

This Call to Action complements existing strategies, policies and documents, and aims to initiate new actions in areas of particular concern to urban forest stakeholders in Ontario. It builds upon past efforts in order to create a cohesive path forward that has broad support from stakeholders across the sector. Many of the strategic priorities outlined in this Call to Action aim to support the tasks outlined in the Canadian Urban Forest Strategy, a national strategic initiative of Canada's urban forest practitioners.