

REPORT NO. 90
of the
WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
June 25, 2015
at 5:30 o'clock p.m.
Ojibway Nature Centre

Members present at the June 25, 2015 meeting:

Councillor Fred Francis, Acting Chair
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
Derek Coronado
Jesse Gardner Costa
Joe Passa
Edwin Tam

Absent:

Councillor Bill Marra
Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
Debby Grant
Radwan Tamr

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by J. Gardner Costa,

That the following recommendations **BE APPROVED** by City and County Councils:

1. Officially recognize the Right to a Healthy Environment, through a Municipal Declaration or equivalent measure;
2. Respect, protect and fulfill the right to a healthy environment within municipal boundaries, and
3. Encourage provincial and federal action to protect the right to a healthy environment for all Canadians

And further, that the following proposed amendments to the Municipal Declaration (attached as Appendix "A") **BE ADDED** to:

- Include a concrete action that the Federal government can strive towards; and
- Include interim targets and timelines for implementation within the 20 year strategic plan.

Carried.

Note: The “Municipal Declaration The Right To a Healthy Environment” is attached as Appendix “A”.

COUNCILLOR FRED FRANCIS, ACTING CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

NOTIFICATION:	
NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
WECEC Committee including resource personnel	On file
Mary Brennan, Director of Council Service/Clerk, County of Essex	mbrennan@countyofessex.on.ca
Cheryl Bondy, Clerk – Town of Essex	cbondy@essex.ca
Scott Brown, Deputy Clerk – Town of Kingsville	sbrown@kingsville.ca
Mary Masse, Town Clerk, Town of Leamington	mmasse@lakeshore.ca
Brenda Andreatta, Clerk, Town of LaSalle	bandreat@town.lasalle.on.ca
Brian Sweet, Clerk, Town of Leamington	clerks@leamington.ca
Laura Moy, Clerk, Town of Tecumseh	lmoy@tecumseh.ca
Paula Parker, Manager of Municipal Governance	pparker@amherstburg.ca

Municipal Declaration The Right To A Healthy Environment

WHEREAS the MUNICIPALITY understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

AND WHEREAS, The MUNICIPALITY finds and declares that:

1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:
 - (a) The right to breathe clean air;
 - (b) The right to drink clean water;
 - (c) The right to consume safe food;
 - (d) The right to access nature;
 - (e) The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment; and,
 - (f) The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment
2. The MUNICIPALITY has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights;
3. The MUNICIPALITY shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the MUNICIPALITY shall take cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the MUNICIPALITY to postpone such measures
4. The MUNICIPALITY shall apply full cost accounting: when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the MUNICIPALITY will consider costs to human health and the environment.
5. As part of the development of the 20-year strategic plan for 2035, the MUNICIPALITY shall specify objectives, targets and timelines and actions the MUNICIPALITY will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:
 1. Responsibly increase density;
 2. Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
 3. Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
 4. Promote the availability of safe foods;
 5. Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
 6. Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods;

7. In taking these aforementioned steps, continue to protect and restore the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the many unique and varied natural features that define our MUNICIPALITY, from Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair to the Detroit River and the Ojibway Parkland, with new developments as Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant and Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway at its heart;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, be directed to correspond with the Right Honourable Stephen Harper and the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, calling for a public review of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights in order to improve the Act and to include recognition that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment and the development of federal and provincial legislation that recognizes that all people have the right to a healthy environment;

(b) That the City Manager be directed to review and report on the objectives, targets, timelines, and actions, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration as part of Windsor's next Reports on the State of our Environment as part of Windsor's Environmental Master Plan, developed with extensive input from residents and stakeholders, the five goals of which are to improve our air and water quality; create healthy communities; green Windsor; use resources efficiently; and, promote awareness.

(c) That the Mayor and City council be directed to include this declaration as part of the creation of the 20 year strategic plan for Windsor for 2035; that the values and goals created as part of the Environmental Master Plan be upheld and developed further and that;

(d) That staff be directed to continue to consult with residents as part of the Right to a Healthy Environment process including on-going Environmental Attitudes Surveys every 5 years.