

November 3, 2024

To Mayor and Council

Copy to City Clerk

The City of Prince George

1100 Patricia Blvd.

Prince George, B.C. V2L 3V9

Re: Community Tree Grant applications with Tree Canada for 2025 available up to \$10,000.

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I have learned recently that Trees Canada is offering community tree grants for 2025. They offer annual grants to any community in Canada who is serious about increasing their urban tree canopy.

I am sharing this information with you, in hopes that the city will apply. There are many promising benefits for the city of Prince George with this grant. Under the generous canopy of trees, we benefit from better community health, protection against heat and loss of water, and better survival for people and wildlife in general. Expanding parks and protecting the environment, also fall under the same umbrella. All of the above are affected by the presence of, or lack of trees; and by building up our urban tree canopy, we can bring about positive change.

We could reduce our rate of hospitalization as Vancouver is doing. Their rate of hospitalization doubled and tripled in 2021 under a heat dome, mostly in hotter, less-treed neighbourhoods. The thought shared by B.C. Nature ([www.bcnature.ca/Fall](http://www.bcnature.ca/Fall)) is that all neighbourhoods should ideally have a 30% tree canopy for best human health. Some cities have found creative ways to address this problem. Kamloops has used annual tree coupons to help increase urban canopy cover. The community of Sooke has recently worked with Tree Canada. Other cities have planned for future increases in canopy cover and are working to meet those goals.

Some of the very real benefits surrounding increased tree presence are lower levels of ADHD, dementia, diabetes and heart disease. Children are able to meet developmental milestones earlier and nature deficit disorder among children can be reduced. We can also reclaim better mental and physical health for all age levels as well as increasing our capacity for creative thinking. Increased creative thinking allows us to be happier and more successful in all endeavors of living.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I sincerely hope that the City of Prince George will consider applying for a Tree Canada Grant. This would be a great opportunity for the city of Prince George. The application process can be found under [treecanada.ca](http://treecanada.ca), and this window of opportunity is open until December 6, 2024.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

**REDACTED**

Cheryl Wehr

Submitted by

Cheryl Wehr

107 Parker Drive

Prince George, B.C V2M 4S7

