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11.1. Draft TRCA Motion Endorsing City of Brampton Declaration of Climate Emergency

FROM: TRCA Board Member Rowena Santos

WHEREAS the City of Brampton passed Resolution #C204-2019 at the City of Brampton Council Meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 to issue a declaration of climate emergency, as follows:

WHEREAS climate change is currently responsible for billions of dollars in property damage worldwide, negatively affecting local and international economies;

WHEREAS climate change is threatening human civilization through rising sea levels, poor air quality, intense wild fires, heat events, unpredictable droughts and heavy rains;

WHEREAS research shows that the Great Lakes region is warming faster including southern Canada and the physical behaviour of the Great Lakes themselves, as the air warms, will hold more moisture, which will bring heavier winter snowstorms and spring rains – with more flooding in vulnerable areas;

WHEREAS international science and research supports that massive reductions in carbon emissions in the next 11 years is required to avoid devastating economic and societal loss;

WHEREAS all of the cities which have declared climate change a state of emergency, have established a goal of reducing Green House Gasses by 80 per cent by 2050, per the Paris Accord;

WHEREAS hundreds of local governments around the world have recognized the emergency that climate change represents and have accelerated their own actions, and call on provincial, state and national governments to strengthen action on climate change;

WHEREAS climate change brings a higher risk of extreme and disaster level weather such as tornadoes, windstorms, and ice storms as well as creating rapidly evolving weather patterns making planning for disaster response a more complex exercise than before requiring provision of more extensive resources than in the past;

WHEREAS frontline communities, those that have been affected by systemic vulnerabilities and inequities, are often at greater risk from the impacts of climate change and often have the fewest resources to respond and adapt;

WHEREAS at least 35 Canadian municipalities have declared a “climate emergency” - in Ontario these include Ottawa, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Burlington, St. Catharines, Halton Hills, Sudbury, and Prince Edward County;

WHEREAS climate change will impact human health through increased injury and death from extreme weather and temperature events and increased rates of vector-borne diseases from a climate more favourable to vectors;

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WHEREAS climate change contributes to poor air quality that will exacerbate respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and increased rates of illness through food and water contamination;

WHEREAS these health impacts from climate change will worsen health inequities by disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups such as seniors, children, those experiencing social or economic isolation, and those with chronic health conditions or disabilities or both;

WHEREAS the City of Brampton and Region of Peel have started planning and implementation of actions to adapt, mitigate, and prevent further damage caused by climate change to include the following:

- *Peel Community Climate Change Partnership (Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon, Peel, TRCA, CVC) was established and has committed to focused collective action to combat priority climate change impacts*
- *Peel Public Health Air Quality Modelling Project*
- *Peel renewable energy generated from biogas at the Clarkson waste water treatment plant equal to 12,000,000 Kwh of electricity annually, or 1,000 households per year*
- *Brampton 2040 Vision*
- *Grow green environment master plan*
- *Community energy and emission reduction plan (CEERP) to identify energy efficiency, green energy production, and Green House Gas emission targets and actions to achieve them*
- *Natural heritage and environmental management strategy*
- *Sustainable community program*
- *Transportation master plan*
- *Transit expansion*
- *Corporate energy plan*
- *Emergency management plan*
- *Urban forest management plan*
- *Green fleet strategy*
- *Peel flood resiliency strategy*
- *Etobicoke Creek flood protection*
- *Brampton storm water retrofit program, and erosion remediation and mitigation program*
- *Recognition as an industry leader in reducing Green House Gas emissions with the Brampton Transit Züm network saving more than 217,000 tonnes of CO₂e from 2010-2018*
- *Brampton's energy management plan*
- *CVC's strategic network of 58 real-time environmental monitoring stations in the CVC (five in Brampton), updating flood plain and risk mapping to better understand, predict and respond to flooding, water quality threats, and low water levels*
- *CVC commitment to plant over one million trees (33,000 in Brampton), restoring 395 hectares of habitat and 16 kilometres of stream, managed 79 invasive species per year and acquired over 1000 acres of land (watershed wide) since 2008*

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- *City of Brampton and Sheridan College partnership to develop a comprehensive strategy for energy and carbon emissions reduction with goals to reduce at least 50 per cent of carbon emissions by 2041 and place Brampton firmly on track to meet 80 per cent Green House Gas reduction by 2050*
- *City of Brampton and Sheridan College aim to build on achievements of Sheridan's Integrated Energy and Climate Master Plan and Mission Zero initiatives to explore opportunities for city-scale district energy systems, retrofit of existing building stock and models for governance and oversight of climate mitigation systems.*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City of Brampton officially DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY for the purpose of aiming, framing and deepening the City of Brampton's commitment to the protection of our eco -systems, and our community from climate change;

2. Staff coordinate with relevant departments in other levels of government including but not limited to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, TRCA, CVC, Region of Peel and its Office of Climate Change and Peel Public Health, and local school boards, all plans related to climate change adaptation and mitigation including the Environmental Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan, CEERP, Vision 2040, flood protection and resiliency plans, stormwater management plans, Peel Public Health goals and Air Quality Modelling, Planning, et cetera and report back on recommendations for the City of Brampton, to achieve a climate change target of 80 per cent Green House Gas reduction by 2050, and;

3. Staff report back on: Federal, Provincial, Regional and other funding sources and/or partnership opportunities that support Brampton's initiatives to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change; single use plastics; the related additional costs that may result; potential impacts on local businesses; and measures of current emissions.

AND WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) undertakes numerous initiatives related to climate change mitigation and adaptation in support of the City of Brampton, including the following:

- **Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Environmental Assessment**
- **Bramalea SNAP and County Court SNAP and associated projects, including stormwater bioretention prices, a retrofit of the Upper nine stormwater management pond, street greening initiatives and tree plantings and a vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan**
- **Restoration activities and plans for sites in Brampton, including Claireville Conservation Area, Heart Lake Conservation Area, the City's Riverstone Golf Course property and others**
- **Community-based Restoration Events to engage residents, businesses, schools and other groups in increasing tree cover and native vegetation, as well as cleaning up waste and plastics**
- **Partners in Project Green support of businesses to help them achieve energy and water efficiency, implement electric vehicle charging stations, reduce waste, develop opportunities in the circular economy, become more resilient and engage employees and customers**

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- **Leading the Green Natural Infrastructure Strategy of the Peel Climate Change Partnership, including increasing tree planning efforts in priority heat vulnerable areas and developing urban forest best practice manuals**
- **Creating an inventory of TRCA's plastics-related initiatives and research to complement work undertaken by partner municipalities**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT TRCA's Board of Directors endorses City of Brampton Resolution #C204-2019;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff continue to work with the City of Brampton to support the goals and recommendations emerging from the City's declaration of climate emergency, as well as continue to deliver and develop TRCA's climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.