



**Nature Canada on the 2 Billion Trees Initiative:**

# **Hope for Nature and the Climate?**

**A Nature Canada Presentation**



## Land acknowledgement

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We would like to pay respect to the Algonquin peoples who were the original caretakers of Odawa and whose traditional unceded territory we call home.

We would like to pay respect to all the Indigenous peoples from across Canada who call Odawa home, such as the urban Inuit population and the unique challenges they face.



## Poll 1

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Which organization type best represents your participation today?

- Nature/conservation organization
- Climate organization
- Government
- Forestry industry
- Interested citizen
- Other



# Webinar Overview

- Nature Canada introduction
- A historic opportunity for nature based climate solutions - it begins!
- 2 billion trees initiative: what we know so far (these are early days).
- Urban forest management plans: 6 key elements
- Working together moving forward

This is the beginning of a conversation. Spoiler alert: all will not be revealed.



# Winter is here, spring is coming

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A lot of policy details left to work out. And we are engaging federal government.

It will take years to ramp up (must grow seedlings).

But they want to start planting in the spring!

- starting in urban areas... hence our urban focus today!



# Nature lovers need action on climate change...

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To reverse species collapse and restore the natural world, Nature lovers need the 2020s to be a breakthrough decade for action on climate change.

- habitat destruction is the primary cause of species collapse today, so solving climate change will not solve species collapse
- but if humanity fails to tackle climate change it will also fail to tackle mass extinction, because runaway climate change would be catastrophic for nature





# The climate change movement needs nature lovers...

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Without the help of the nature community, the climate change movement will fail to create the ground swell of action that we need.



## The climate change movement needs nature lovers...

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- The nature community is the largest arm of the broader environmental movement, we have an intimate knowledge of our landscapes and we are already doing the work
- Millions of Canadians that are not primarily motivated by the obvious need to phase out fossil fuels and ramp up low-impact renewable energy
- If we throw our support behind the climate change movement, we can play a decisive role in creating the public demand that we all need to get the job done





# The nature community has an historic opportunity...

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For the first time in history, nature-based climate solutions are a core component of Canada's commitment to fight climate change!



# The nature community has an historic opportunity...

- The climate benefits of Canada's goal to protect 30 percent of land, freshwater and ocean by 2030 are beginning to be recognized.
- A shift in thinking around natural infrastructure
- Major policy issues emerging (offsets, harvested wood products).
- Billions of dollars in federal funding flowing into reforestation (two billion trees) and wetlands, peatlands, grasslands, etc.,



## Nature groups need to seize the day...

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If nature groups launch a massive push around nature-based climate solutions we can accelerate progress in simultaneously addressing the twin crises of mass extinction AND climate change because we are best placed to make the most of emerging opportunities and resources and we can inject critical new energy into the climate change movement.



## Nature Canada is calling on groups to...

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- Dive into the concepts and ideas around nature-based climate solutions;
- Take action to implement nature-based solutions at the local level, and;
- Ensure that every jurisdiction that has a climate change strategy has a nature-based climate solutions component to that strategy (municipal, county, provincial, etc).

Today we are focusing on trees.





## 2 Billion Trees Commitment: What we know so far

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- 2B net additional trees
- Projected to reduce GHGs by up to 12 megatonnes by 2050
- Planting starts spring 2021
- Planting Locations
  - Community & urban forests
  - Indigenous communities
  - Crown & private land
- Costs will be shared







## 2 Billion Trees: What we know part 2

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- Partnerships
  - Indigenous communities
  - Governments: Provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous
  - NGOs
  - Industry
- Advisory-committee





## 2 Billion Trees Commitment

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The two billion tree initiative will have an urban dimension and a non-urban dimension, today we are focusing on the importance of urban trees.



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# Urban Forest Management Plans



## Poll 2

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Does your jurisdiction have a forest management plan?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



# What is urban forest management?

Is a specialized branch of forestry and has as its objectives the **cultivation and management of trees** for their present and potential contribution to the physiological, sociological and economic well-being of urban society.

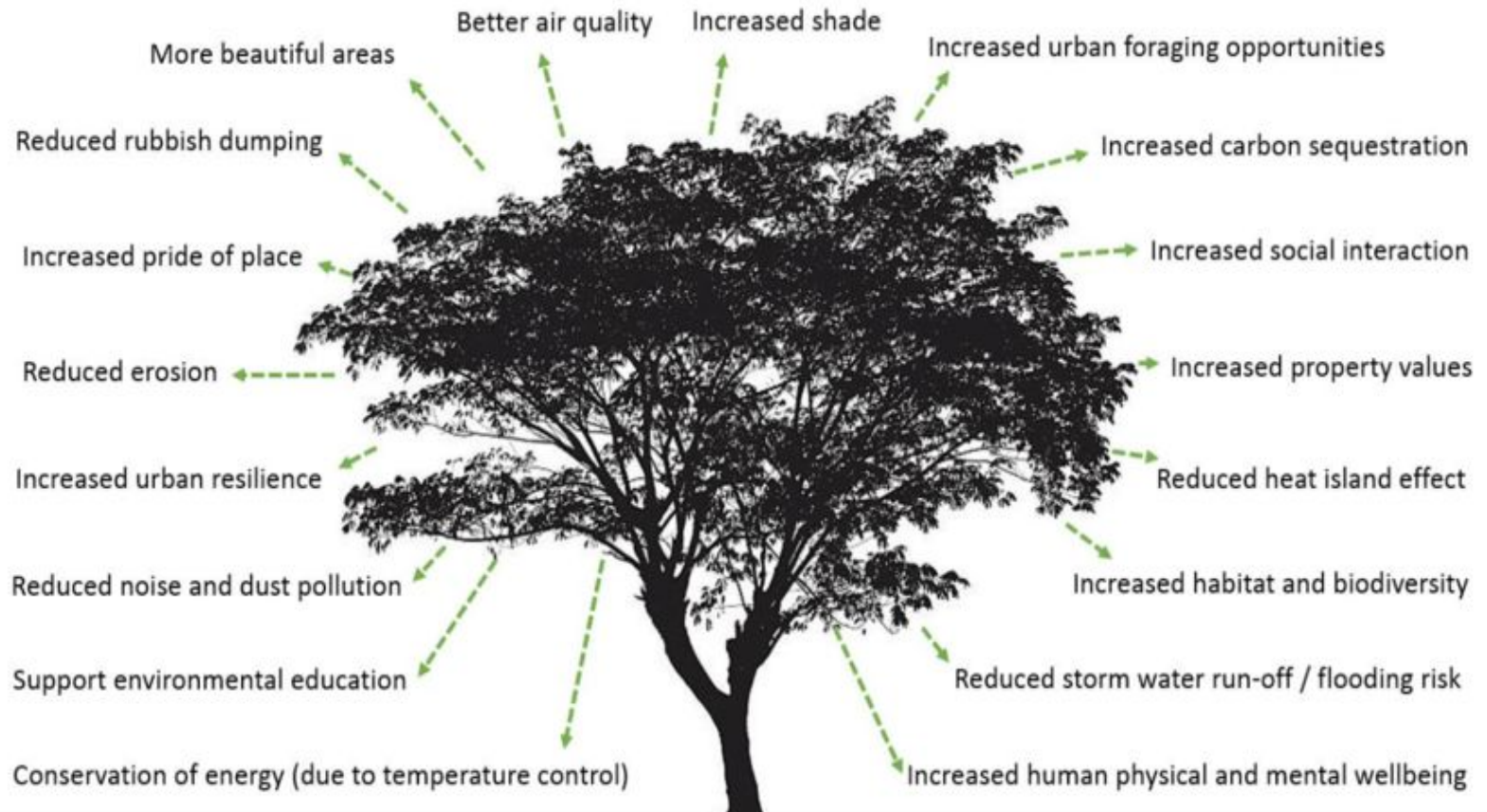
*City of Ottawa, 2017*







# Urban forests – why do they matter?



Zari (2017)



# Changes in urban forestry over time

- Urbanization
- Tree loss and species diversity

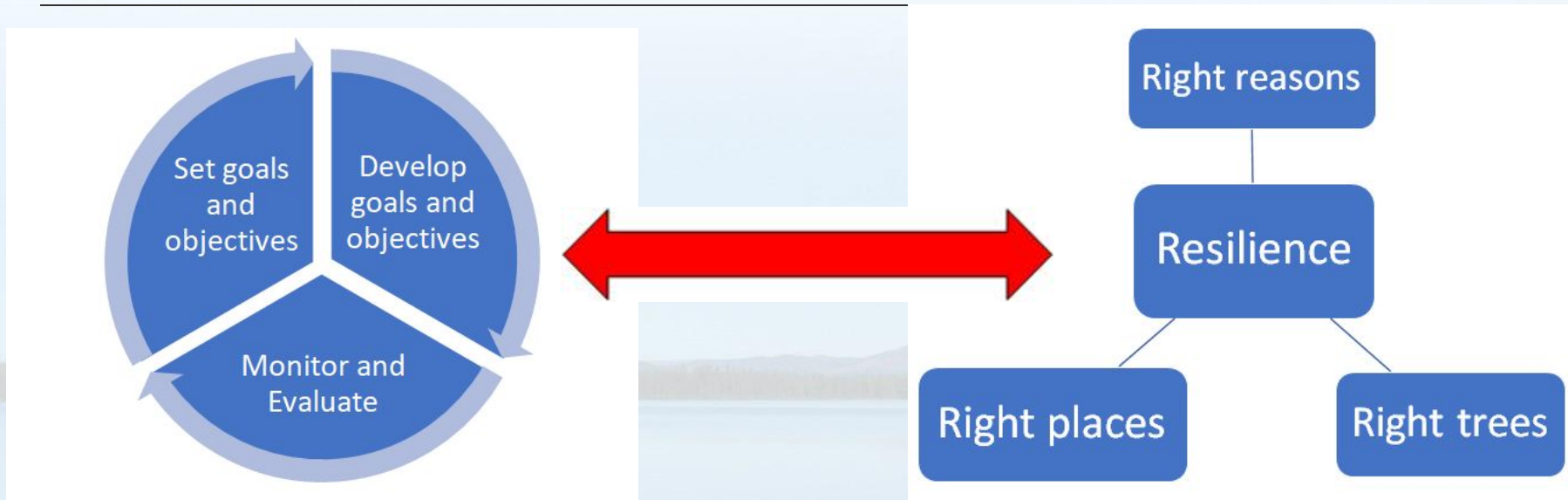


<http://www.ericdavies.ca/>





# Reaping the benefits of urban forests depends on...



Our vision is to have sustainable, biodiverse and healthy urban forests that protect and enhance the well-being and prosperity of Canadian communities— Canadian Urban Forest Strategy 2019-2024 (2018).



## Plant and maintain healthy trees

- Canopy cover

## Ensure tree diversity

- Tree species and tree size distribution

## Nature conservation and biodiversity (non tree)

- Wildlife habitat

## Equity and diversity

- Access

## Ensure evidence based monitoring

- Database

## Ensure citizen education and engagement

- Public engagement through partnerships and programs



# Plant and maintain healthy trees

Ensure tree diversity

Nature conservation and  
biodiversity (non tree)

Equity and diversity

Ensure evidence based monitoring

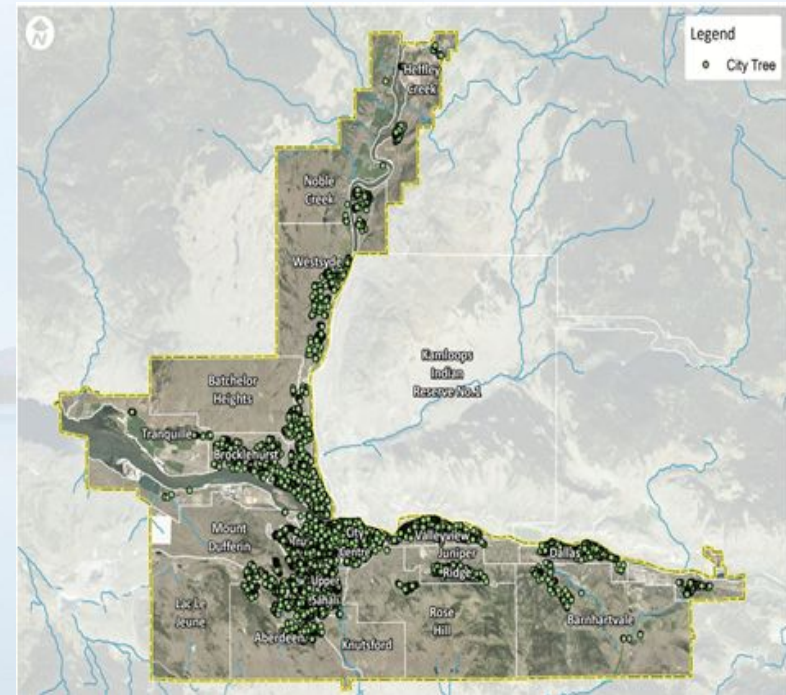
Ensure citizen education and engagement





# 1. Plant and maintain healthy trees

- Is there a commitment to increase canopy cover? Is there a numerical target?
- Are there any priority/targeted places for tree planting?
- E.g. City of Kamloops





Plant and maintain healthy trees

## Ensure tree diversity

Nature conservation and biodiversity (non tree)

Equity and diversity

Ensure evidence based monitoring

Ensure citizen education and engagement



## 2. Ensure tree diversity

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- Commitment to maintain tree diversity?
- Native vs non-native species?
- Age class distribution?
- E.g. City of Winnipeg







Plant and maintain healthy trees

Ensure tree diversity

## Nature conservation and biodiversity (non tree)

Equity and diversity

Ensure evidence based monitoring

Ensure citizen education and engagement



### 3. Nature conservation and biodiversity (non tree)

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- Provide habitat for wildlife?
- Connectivity?
- E.g. City of Victoria







Plant and maintain healthy trees

Ensure tree diversity

Nature conservation and biodiversity (non tree)

## Equity and diversity

Ensure citizen education and engagement

Ensure evidence based monitoring



## 4. Equity and diversity

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- Access to green spaces?
- Commitment to increase access to all communities?
- E.g. City of Halifax





Plant and maintain healthy trees

Ensure tree diversity

Nature conservation and biodiversity (non tree)

Equity and diversity

Ensure citizen education and engagement

Ensure evidence based monitoring





## 5. Ensure citizen education and engagement

- What's the rationale for urban forests?
- What does the public value?
- How can they be involved?

**PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT**  
SHARE YOUR VOICE  
SHAPE OUR CITY







Plant and maintain healthy trees

Ensure tree diversity

Nature conservation and biodiversity (non tree)

Equity and diversity

Ensure citizen education and engagement

Ensure evidence based monitoring



## 6. Ensure evidence based monitoring

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- Why? Inventory/database of trees?
- 25% - no inventory of their trees with 64% having no assessment of their canopy cover ([Bardekjian et al., 2016](#))
- E.g. City of Charlottetown





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# How we can work together moving forward...



# What we are doing

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- Lobbying federal decision makers for right trees in the right places for the right reasons
- Workshopping with organizations to understand needs
- Nature-based climate solutions toolkit & map





# How we can work together moving forward...

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1. What opportunities will the program create for you to lead tree planting in your community?

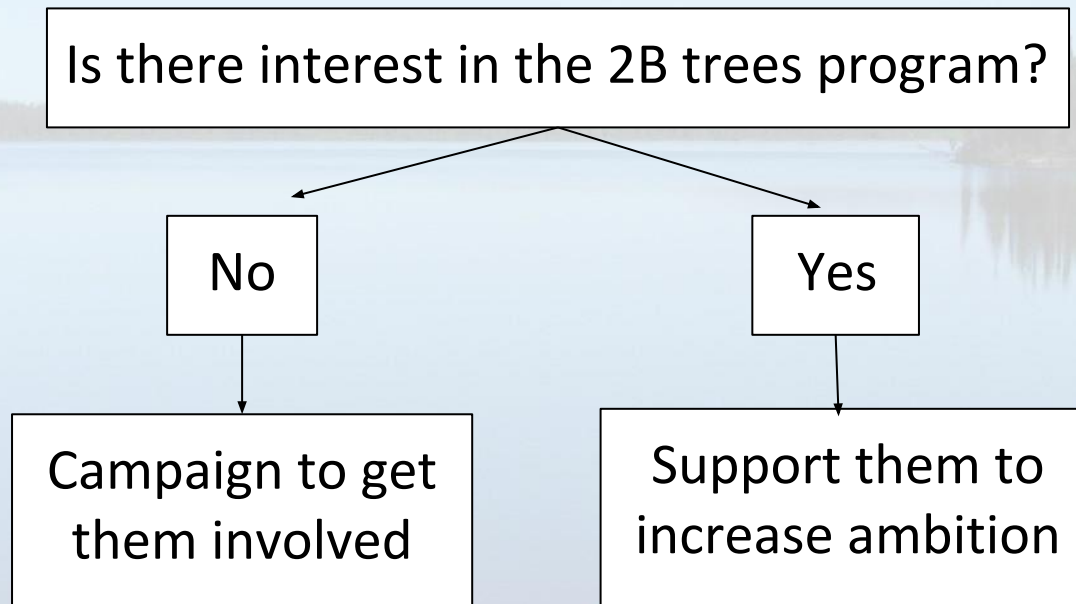


City of Edmonton



# How we can work together moving forward...

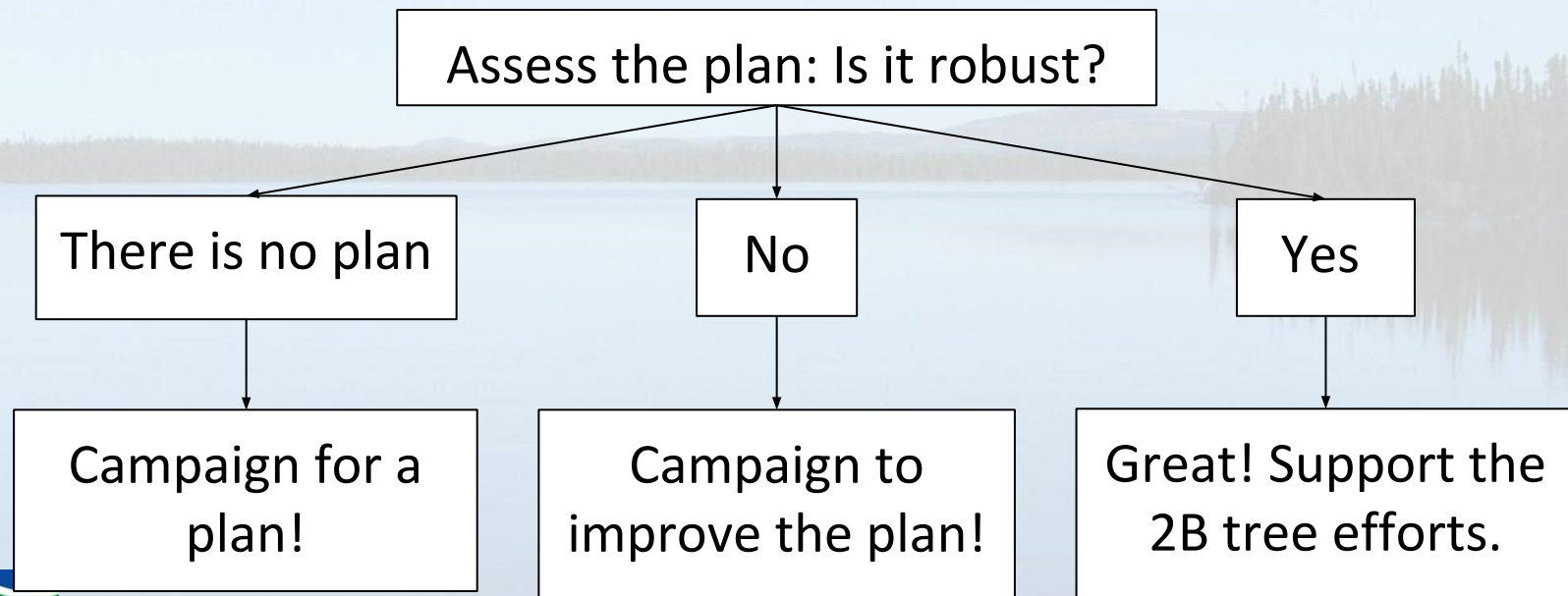
2. How best to engage decision-makers so your jurisdiction will benefit from the two billion tree initiative?





# How we can work together moving forward...

## 3. How to support a great urban forest management plan in your area?





# How we can work together moving forward...

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## 4. Co-host a workshop with us to start the conversation







# How we can work together moving forward...

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## 5. Join our reforestation network - keep in touch





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## Get in touch!

Fill out the form (see chat for link)

or email me:

[ewhittingham@naturecanada.ca](mailto:ewhittingham@naturecanada.ca)





THANK YOU