

## Federal government should pay for ash tree removals: councillor

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Toronto homeowners with dead or dying ash trees should be able to ask the federal government to pay for their removal, Scarborough East Councillor Paul Ainslie says.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has "a pot of money" to compensate property owners whose trees fall victim to the emerald ash borer, a beetle expected to kill nearly every ash tree in Toronto over the next decade.

Bylaws say homeowners must remove trees that are a hazard, and Ainslie said the looming cost of removing ash trees is a huge issue in his ward, where some seniors have several on their properties.

His motion, passed by the city's parks and environment committee and up for consideration at Toronto Council next week, suggests the city enter into an agreement with CFIA to order the removal of infected trees. That, in turn, would make residents eligible for compensation grants.

The motion, if approved, would also ask CFIA to make city-owned trees eligible for the grants.



**Federal government should pay for ash tree removals: councillor.** The emerald ash borer is spreading through areas of Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke, causing huge damage to ash trees. Scarborough East Councillor Paul Ainslie is suggesting that the federal government make funds available to help homeowners cover the costs of removing damaged trees on their properties. *Photo/G.G. Wood*

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