

Informed Consent Document (ICD)

Student Researcher

Laura Storozinski
Laura.storozinski@utoronto.ca
416-580-9448
679 Glengrove Ave Toronto, ON M6B 2J2

Academic Supervisor

Dr. Andy Kenney
a.kenney@utoronto.ca
ESC 1014
33 Willcocks St, Toronto, ON, M5S 3B3
Phone: 1-416-978-0474
Fax: 1-416-978-3834

Purpose of Assignment

- i) Strengthen research skills by constructing interview and survey questions, conducting interviews and administering a survey, and analyzing data obtained
- ii) To obtain insight into the municipal planning process, including by-law amendments
- iii) To obtain professional opinion on the feasibility of amending zoning by-laws to enhance tree protection efforts within a municipality

Methodology

- i) Interviews will be conducted (See attached Questionnaire)
 - a. Email requests sent out requesting interview followed by phone call (if required)
 - b. Meeting with participant for approximately 1 hour, place to be determined during conversation
- ii) Self-Administered Survey will be administered (See attached Questionnaire)
 - a. Using email list from CANUFNET, an industry organization and listserv (of which this researcher is a member)
 - b. Obtaining e-mail addresses of municipal actors from public municipal directories
- iii) Primary Document Review
 - a. Primarily municipal by-laws will be reviewed
 - b. Any reports obtained on the effectiveness of by-laws will be reviewed (if available)

Access to Research Report

Privacy of participants will be protected by not making the final report available to the public. Oral presentation of the report will not address the subjects specifically. It may be possible to discern in smaller organizations the subjects associated with the specified organizations.

Risks to Subjects

Privacy of participants will be protected by not making the final report available to the public. Oral presentation of the report will not address the subjects specifically. It may be possible to discern in smaller organizations the subjects associated with the specified organizations.

Written records will be kept stored on a password protected computer

Audio recordings of interviews will be kept on a password protected computer

Survey responses will be kept on a password protected computer

Centre for Environment UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Associated Benefits of Research

Benefits to Participants:

- Aiding in educational experience
- Potential avenue to be explored for tree preservation

Benefits to Student/Society

- Educational benefits including research skills, interviewing skills, data analysis and report writing
- Possible exposure to future contacts in the industry

Participation in Research is Voluntary

Interviewees or those being surveyed do so voluntarily, and may withdraw from participation at any time, or may refuse to answer any particular question(s).

Confidentiality/Anonymity Provisions

Privacy of participants will be protected by not making the final report available to the public. Oral presentation of the report will not address the subjects specifically. It may be possible to discern in smaller organizations the subjects associated with the specified organizations.

Written records will be kept stored on a password protected computer

Audio recordings of interviews will be kept on a password protected computer

Survey responses will be kept on a password protected computer

Ethics Review Board at the University of Toronto

Participants can contact the Office of Research Ethics at ethics.review@utoronto.ca or 416-946-3273, if they have questions about their rights as participants.

If circumstances arise during the course of carrying out the assignment that indicate to the student that the risks to the subjects have increased or may increase, then the subjects will be informed of this, and renewed free consent must be obtained.

Any subject and/or organization may give permission to be identified, either directly, or because of the manner in which the information/data are reported. This consent will only be given with the full understanding by the subjects/organization of the information contained in the ICD, particularly information about who will have access to the research report (oral or written). If subjects will be quoted, the opportunity to check your text for accuracy before written or oral presentation will be afforded. Identification of a subject includes the listing of a person as a research subject in the text, and even this will not be done without consent.

A summary of the research results will be made available to all research participants. A copy of the final report will be made available only if requested.

Signoff

I agree that I have had the study fully explained to me, and all questions I may have had have been answered. I agree to participate in the abovementioned study.

Participant Name (print)

Participant's Signature

Date

Interview Questionnaire

- Is it a feasible idea to amend current zoning by-laws to include stipulations for tree protection?
 - What are possible problems that can be confronted by including trees in zoning by-laws?
- What may the possible conflicts between zoning and tree protection by-laws be if they co-exist?
- What may be the possible benefits of having both tree protection by-laws and amended zoning by-laws (those that include caveats for trees)?
- Is it a feasible idea to amend current zoning by-laws to include caveats for the provision of an adequate amount of land for trees to be replanted prior to development?
 - Can rooting volume allowances be incorporated into the official plan and placed into zoning by-law requirements?
 - What may be the implications of this?
 - Should more consideration be afforded to include soil amendment/improvement as a requirement prior to development?
 - What may be the implications of this?
- Can a zoning by-law be used to include the requirement for utilization of tree-preservation technologies, such as structural soils, permeable pavement and silva-cells?
- Should the official plan be amended to recognize heritage trees in the municipality?
- Should a by-law be created to recognize heritage trees?
 - What may be the possible problems or benefits from this?
- Do you agree with the formation of a heritage tree by-law to encourage tree preservation?

Survey Questionnaire

This is a 2 part survey. Recipients will be asked to only complete part 1. If time permits, or their interested, they may complete the second part.

Part 1

Occupation (choose the one that <i>best</i> describes you)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Arborist b. Landscape architect c. Planner d. Engineer e. Lawmaker/Politician f. Other (please specify) 					
Years involved in occupation (choose one)	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">0-5</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">6-10</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">11-15</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">16-20</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">21+</td> </tr> </table>	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21+
0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21+		
Education Level (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. High school only b. College diploma only c. University degree only d. College diploma and university degree e. Other (please specify) _____ 					
Do you feel that including tree protection in zoning by-laws would be beneficial	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">YES</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO			
YES	NO					
What do you feel would be the main benefit of including tree protection in zoning by-laws? (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Early consideration of trees in planning/development b. Design constraints to include trees as infrastructure c. Allotment of space for trees to grow/be planted d. Other (please specify) 					

Part 2

Does the municipality you work in currently have a public tree protection by-law?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Does the municipality you work in currently have a private tree protection by-law?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Do you feel that having zoning by-laws including tree protection would interfere/be problematic for existing tree protection by-laws?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Do you feel the existing tree protection by-laws are adequate for preservation of trees during land development?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Do you feel that tree protection by-laws should be different for development applications as opposed to private landowners?	YES	NO	UNSURE
What do you feel would be the most important amendment to zoning by-laws with respect to trees (choose one)	a. Minimum tree diameter for preservation b. Minimum relative basal area for retention c. Minimum space allotment for existing trees d. Minimum space allotment for new trees e. Required soil amendment prior to development		
How important are the following to the efficacy of a tree protection by law? (1- most 5- least important)	Enforcement____ Education____ Large monetary fines for non-compliance____ Ease of application process____ Protection level (i.e. minimum tree sizes, minimum number of trees)____		
Do you feel that soil remediation (replacement of topsoil to a required depth) as a requirement under zoning by-laws is a feasible requirement?	YES	NO	
Do you feel that the required use (where applicable) of “tree-friendly technologies” (silva-cells, structural soil, permeable pavement) as a requirement under zoning by-laws is a feasible requirement?	YES	NO	UNSURE
Any other comments/ideas?			