

Dalhousie University Office of Sustainability
1236 Henry St., Central Services Bld.
PO Box 15000 Halifax NS B3H 4R2 Canada

December 11, 2014

Re: Dalhousie University Diameter Tree Replacement Guideline.

Dear Dalhousie STARS Coordinator:

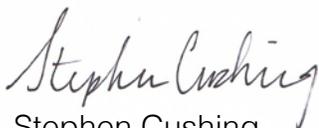
I am writing this letter of affirmation to share my support for Dalhousie University's diameter tree replacement guideline. As a graduate of environmental horticulture and landscape architecture, my area of research and practice is in greening urban environments. I praise Dalhousie's commitment to urban sustainability, specifically the greening of urban environment that all too often sees a loss in tree cover as new infill development occurs.

Prior to its adoption in 2014, Dalhousie University had no official tree replacement guideline. That is, if a tree was cut down on campus it may or may not have been replaced with another tree(s). Incrementally, this loss of trees is not seen as significant, but over time a loss in greening has major implication for the physical comfort and psychological well being of students, campus aesthetics, stormwater mitigation potential, shading, cooling, among other values. While researching what other Canadian universities have done to replace trees felled on campus, the search results are few. In Atlantic Canada, no similar policy or guideline exists.

Some 1000 trees are found on the three Halifax campuses of Dalhousie. A 2014 spring planting of native specie saw 200 new trees added to that tally. These new trees were a direct replacement for those removed from a construction site in 2011. What makes this guideline unique is that replacement is not a 1:1 ratio of old to new tree, but a 1:1 ratio of diameter. In time, the value received from new trees will exceed the value received from the removed trees.

In summary, I am pleased to see that Dalhousie University has set a precedent for campus tree replacement. I hope to see this extend to other universities and institutions in Halifax and in Atlantic Canada.

Yours Sincerely,



Stephen Cushing
BTech, MLA