

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is Hydro One's approach to vegetation management?

- To maintain our 150,000 kilometres of power lines, we take a preventative approach to vegetation management. This ensures that our lines and equipment are clear from potential hazards, to provide customers with a reliable supply of electricity.
- In developing our approach we consider safety, reliability, environmental responsibility, value to customer, and community interest.
- Our maintenance approach is based on a number of factors, including the tree's proximity to equipment and its growth habits, weather, topography, line voltage, line sag and sway, and community input.
- For more information, please visit our project website at [www.HydroOne.com/Beaverbrook](http://www.HydroOne.com/Beaverbrook)

### 2. What is Hydro One doing in the Beaverbrook/Kanata community?

- To maintain system reliability and protect against outages, Hydro One needs to ensure that transmission lines are clear of vegetation. Similar to our work in 2012, we will visit properties in the community where we have an easement to conduct maintenance on trees that could become dangerous.

### 3. How will Hydro One execute the work?

- Hydro One has worked with the local community to develop a fair, flexible and personalized maintenance approach. We believe our plan provides property owners with plenty of notice while striking a balance between safety, reliability and community needs.
- In early November 2017 residents living adjacent to the transmission corridor will receive a one-on-one meeting invitation from Hydro One to assess their property's vegetation and together identify trees that require treatment or transplanting. Homeowners will have until June 1 to transplant identified trees. Work execution will begin as early as January 2018.

### 4. Why are you doing this work on private property?

- When our transmission lines extend through residential properties, an easement agreement allows us to conduct maintenance on our equipment. Easement documents are on title and residents can obtain a copy of their easement through the local Land Registry Office.

### 5. Why is this work being conducted now?

- Hydro One conducts routine vegetation maintenance along all our power lines to ensure equipment are clear from potential hazards to provide a reliable supply of electricity.
- Some of the vegetation along the transmission corridor has reached a height that risks the safe, reliable operation of the line. To protect against outages and keep our workers safe, work needs to be conducted soon.

### 6. What's the difference between compatible and incompatible species?

- Compatible plantings are those that do not affect the safe operation of hydro equipment or impede access. Compatible vegetation rarely grows to a height that would interfere with the safe operation of our power lines. Compatible species vary on each transmission corridor depending on profile details, such as topography, climate in the region, line voltage and sag during maximum load, line sway, and vegetation growth habits.
- Incompatible vegetation includes any plant or tree species that could grow into the required clearance area. Incompatible species require maintenance at some point.
- Transferable species are not currently compatible with the corridor, but could be moved to a new location. Maintainable species are site-specific and can stay on the corridor as long as they are trimmed.

## 7. Does Hydro One have a forestry policy?

- We have a robust forestry policy that aims to serve the community while meeting our operational responsibilities. For more information, please pick up one of our brochures and visit our project website [www.HydroOne.com/Beaverbrook](http://www.HydroOne.com/Beaverbrook)

## 8. What can we expect from Hydro One for 2018 and future maintenance?

- Hydro One has developed a number of mitigation approaches that will be considered during assessments with each property owner. These mitigation approaches can be used in combination depending on the unique need of each property. They can all be considered and work together.
- **More frequent maintenance:** Hydro One will temporarily move to a three-year cycle in 2018 and 2021 to minimize the degree of trimming as we work towards establishing a sustainable corridor. This will allow homeowners to replant compatible vegetation on the corridor as identified by Hydro One. Starting in 2024, maintenance will return to the standard six-year cycle.
- **Treatment of wire zone versus border zone:** Hydro One will perform site specific assessments to determine vegetation compatibility. Maintenance in the wire zone and border zone will be treated differently.
- **Lead time to transplant:** Homeowners have until June 1, 2018 to transplant vegetation on their property that Hydro One has deemed incompatible.
- **Maintainable Vegetation Agreement:** Hydro One will consider offering a Maintainable Vegetation Agreement for property owners with easements that have hedges on their land, based on the unique features of each property.
- **Compatible Species List:** Hydro One will share on the project website a list of vegetation that can be planted on the transmission corridor.
- During one-on-one meetings in November 2017, Hydro One will provide residents with a personalized and agreed upon plan for their property. Residents will have six months to transplant trees. If any trees require removal, Hydro One will provide vouchers to purchase compatible vegetation at a local nursery.

## 9. How will you keep the community updated?

- We believe that the most effective type of communication is early, often and, where possible, in person. Hydro One's Community Relations team will be available to answer your questions via email, phone or in-person meetings. Up-to-date information will also be shared on the project website [www.HydroOne.com/Beaverbrook](http://www.HydroOne.com/Beaverbrook)

## 10. How do you determine how high trees can grow in your corridors?

- Industry standards dictate how vegetation can grow under and near energized wires. Along the "border zone" of the corridor, we determine tree maintenance based on site-specific assessments. In the "wire zone" we adhere to the standards outlined by regulatory bodies.
- We also consider the proximity of the trees to the wires if/when a tree falls, as well as during peak times when the wires sag and sway due to the additional power.

## 11. Which legislation allows Hydro One to conduct this work?

- According to Section 40 of the *Electricity Act*, Hydro One employees and its authorized agents may enter a customer's property at any time to work on equipment. Our work activities are also covered under a registered easement.

## 12. Are there any other projects planned in Kanata?

- We are in the process of reviewing our 2018 work program and could potentially assess other corridors within Kanata. Rest assured, we are committed to working with your local officials and representatives during our planning phase and all adjacent property owners will be notified prior to the work beginning.

## 13. What will your work execution approach involve for municipal owned lands?

- Hydro One is committed to working with City representatives and environmental authorities to develop a mutually agreeable upon work execution approach.