

Subject: Tiny Council must assume responsibility for the gypsy moth infestation in the Township

Dear Mayor Cornell and the Councillors of Tiny Township,

I am writing to request that Tiny confirm as soon as possible that there will be aerial spraying of Btk on public and private lands with gypsy egg masses by the Township of Tiny or the County of Simcoe in the spring of 2021.

We are facing a risk of permanent damage to many of Tiny's public and private trees. 2021 will be 3rd year of infestation and some shoreline trees have had the added stress of high water. Trees are an essential climate change mitigation measure.

There are no adverse consequences of Btk spraying as long as it is done in the correct timeframe in the spring when only the gypsy moth caterpillars are eating the leaves.

Tiny Township has made the option of spraying privately almost impossible for taxpayers. The obligation to have neighbour spray waivers and the fact that Tiny has inexplicably stated that there can be no overspray of Btk on public lands make private spraying completely ineffectual in many areas. There would only be benefit for the Township's trees if Council eliminated the prohibition on aerial spraying of BTK by an authorized service provider during the short window for targeting GM in late May / early June. Any other prohibitions that the Township may have in place for aerial spraying of pesticides need not be altered.

The Township must assume responsibility for this serious problem which fortunately has a very straightforward remedy. Tree mortality or die back resulting from repeated defoliation is a potential liability to the municipality & may result in future legal action against the municipality if those trees pose a risk to private property, or life & are not dealt with properly by the municipality.

Taxpayers cannot be expected to withstand another summer of infestation when there is a safe and effective option.

Yours truly,