



## Memorandum

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Erin Mahoney, Commissioner Environmental Services

Date: June 7, 2018

Re: **Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre achieves Living Building Challenge certification – first in Canada**

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The Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship & Education Centre is the first Living Certified building in Canada and the 21<sup>st</sup> Living Certified building in the world

On May 17, 2018, the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship & Education Centre was awarded status as 'Living Certified' by the International Living Future Institute, earning the final 'Energy Petal' based on net zero energy performance and becoming the first in Canada and the 21<sup>st</sup> building in the world to achieve this certification.

Living Building Challenge certification is a global standard for green design and sustainability

Considered the most rigorous green building standard in the world, the Living Building Challenge encompasses sustainability requirements related to site, water, energy, health, materials, equity and beauty. These seven categories are referred to in the Challenge as 'Petals'. In addition to meeting stringent environmental design requirements, buildings must demonstrate net zero energy and net zero water performance over a 12-month period of operation to earn the Energy and Water Petals, respectively.

The Forest Stewardship Centre first achieved Petal certification in May 2017, earning the Site, Materials, Equity, and Beauty Petals. In January of 2018, the Health and Water Petals were added to the certification making the building one of the most sustainable in Canada and the world.

The building is used to educate academic institutions, industry and the public about sustainable buildings and technology

The Forest Stewardship Centre was constructed in 2015 and opened in October of the same year. The building replaced an existing Forestry building which had been in use at the York Regional Forest Hollidge Tract in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville for more than 50 years.

This legacy project demonstrates the Region's commitment to embrace technology and advance public knowledge towards sustainability. Since its opening, the Forest Stewardship Centre has been used to educate students, industry professionals and the general public about leading edge sustainability related to building design, construction and operation. The site is often used as a gathering space or trail hub for interpretive forest walks. The building was built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Platinum certification requirements, and targeted the Living Building Challenge sustainability design and performance objectives. The project demonstrates sustainability, and is intended to transform the way buildings are designed, built and operated.

Staff have hosted groups from a wide range of institutions and organizations, including; Ryerson University, Professional Engineers Ontario York Chapter, Canada Green Building Council and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Forest Administration. Tours have also been and continue to be provided to the public through forest events such as the Spring Forest Festival (May 12) and Doors Open (June 2, 2018).

This achievement underscores Council's continued commitment and leadership in sustainability, green infrastructure and public education.

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Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner Environmental Services

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