**COUNTRY REPORT**

**GREEN CITY ACTIVITIES**

**Country :** Canada

**Association :** Canadian Nusery Landscape Association

**Government Relations Committee**

This past year, the CNLA Government Relations Committee put a concentrated effort into planning and executing a number of visits to Ottawa to speak with senior Government officials (dubbed ‘Day on the Hill’) to address industry topics of concern with the Government.  A member summit was held to determine the top topics that we wanted to bring to the government for this round of meetings and the topics that were prioritized were:

* Environment & Climate Change
* Health – Research Air/Water/Heat/Temperature
* Heritage – National Garden
* Public Services and Procurement – Professionalization / CLS / NMS and Procurement Policy
* Infrastructure and Communities

We had seven delegates travel to Ottawa for six meetings over two days in December 2018.  While in Ottawa we were able to meet with five separate departments and nineteen officials, including the Minister of Agriculture, Lawrence MacAulay. The primary focus on all meetings was green infrastructure.

The different Ministry Departments that were visited include: Public Health Agency of Canada, National Capital Commission, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Environment Canada and the National Research Council of Canada.

This was a very successful and busy two Days on the Hill, meeting with some key people who supported our being there and were able to provide great information and contacts to move us further in the right direction.  Many of our beliefs are not only shared, but also supported and we look forward to keeping communication open with them.

A second meeting was held in February 2019 in which CNLA took six delegates and were able to attend seven meetings over a two-day period.  This tour had us meeting with Employment and Social Development Canada, Heritage Canada, Health Canada, Small Business and Export Promotion, Public Services - Procurement - Accessibility and finally Innovation Science and Economic Development.

*Submitted by: Leslie Sison, CNLA*

**Green Cities Foundation**

The Green Cities Foundation received status as a Private Charitable Foundation in October 2018 and is working toward building its inaugural project in 2019.

Talks are underway with prospective municipalities to identify an ideal location for this first project under the #GreenMyCity Program, which will take place in Southwester Ontario, Canada. The Board of Directors is targeting as September-October timeframe for the build.

Supporters are invited to visit the website GCFoundation.ca to follow the project progress, subscribe to our newsletter and make a donation. Please follow us on social Media.

*Submitted by: Mary Aziz-Stoetzer, GCF*

**Communities in Bloom**

For many years the CNLA has supported the national ‘Communities in Bloom’ program through participation and sponsorship dollars. The sponsorship was for an award presented for ‘Environmental Action’ in the Outstanding Achievement category. This year we have changed the criteria for the award and changed the name of the award to the CNLA Green City award.

The key message we have developed for the award, which we are also applying to all of our green city messaging is as follows:

*Climate change is affecting our cities, our communities, and our homes and is changing the way we must design and build our urban landscapes. Yes, climate change is a global problem, but the effects hit us locally, where we live. Each city, town and community must then, seek solutions and develop initiatives that are specific to their needs–on their streets, in their parks, playgrounds and schools, at all their green spaces, at every opportunity.*

*Never have our living landscapes been so important to our collective health and well-being – thriving, contributing, working green spaces and places for people to gather and enjoy. It is with these green spaces that we have the power to change and contribute to the health and wellness of our cities and its people.*

 We look forward to presenting this award in September of this year.

**Climate Change Adaptation**

The CNLA Climate Change Adaptation committee has proposed to investigate and develop a communications plan that is able to help us better understand how living green infrastructure has a real ability to change people’s lives, for the better, while improving our urban climates.

We see the Living Urban Landscape as the “lungs of the city” and believe that by better understanding the relationship between plants and the urban environments they share with an ever-increasing population, we will better understand what is truly required to make a city “liveable”.

The goal of the Climate Change Adaptation committee is to develop a Matrix that will define the success or deficit of a location by measuring a population’s vulnerability using demographics, such as current population, population density, and percentage of green space both public and private that can influence a populations health through air quality, water availability and a city’s own ability to moderate its temperature.  This will act as a report card of sorts to provide information to cities and give them the information and tools to make positive changes.

*Submitted by: Lauryn Mullan, CNLA on behalf of Alan White, CCA Chair*