

From: Kathleen Wong

Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 8:40 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: Committee of the Whole Agenda Item 12.2

I am writing to express my concern about Agenda item 12.2 . I do not believe this is the right time to put this into place. As I am sure council is aware, Toronto has paused their backyard poultry program and will look at it again in two years. Their main concern is the spread of the highly contagious H5N1,avian influenza strain.

Mary Jane Ireland, Canada's chief veterinary officer, said it's been an "unprecedented year" for avian flu around the globe. She said it's the largest number of cases in multiple provinces in recent memory and the first time Canada has seen H5N1

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) says there have been 11 instances of avian flu confirmed in Ontario poultry flocks between March 27 and April 10. That includes three backyard flocks in Prince Edward County, The Township of Selwyn and the Township of Cheppewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

As Richmond Hill works to become certified as a bird friendly city, it is essential that we work to remove threats for birds.

Kathleen Wong