



Outlook

Fwd: Did you see this??

From Lori Shepard**Date** Mon 6/29/2026 4:36 PM**To** Vivian Garfein**Cc** Abby Conroy ; Miles Todaro

FYI ..

It would be nice to share this with the commissioners of IWWC and PZC,-
And others!

We really ought to work on a tree ordinance for Salisbury.

LORI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Subject: Re: Did you see this??

Saw this on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/photo/?
fbid=1577983427272917&set=a.1049801296757802](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1577983427272917&set=a.1049801296757802)



**Trees are officially
recognized as living beings
with rights in a town
in Canada**



Canadian town officially recognizes trees as living beings with rights.

Terrasse-Vaudreuil, a small municipality about 40 miles (64 km) west of Montreal, has adopted a resolution declaring that trees have “the right to life, to natural growth, to integrity and regeneration.”

The move was approved unanimously by local councillors on June 9, making the town one of the first places in Canada to formally sign onto the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Tree.

Mayor Michel Bourdeau said the decision was inspired partly by filmmaker André Desrocher, whose work helped convince residents that trees should be treated as living entities, not just background scenery.

“A tree is like a human being,” Bourdeau told CBC. “It breathes, it lives, it takes in water. It protects us from all sorts of things.”

The town, which has been flooded three times in recent years, says trees are not only living organisms but also essential infrastructure. They cool cities, absorb carbon dioxide, filter air, support wildlife, reduce heat islands, and help manage water during heavy rainfall.

Under the new resolution, Terrasse-Vaudreuil will review its existing rules and bylaws to make sure trees are better protected or replaced when they are cut down.

The idea is part of a growing global “rights of nature” movement, which argues that ecosystems should have legal recognition, similar to how corporations already have legal personhood.

It may sound unusual, but this idea has already been applied elsewhere. In 2021, Quebec’s Magpie River was granted legal personhood by a regional government and the Innu Council of Ekuanitshit.

Supporters say recognizing the rights of trees could change how towns think about development, climate resilience, and urban planning.

For now, Terrasse-Vaudreuil is making a simple but striking statement: trees are not just property.

They are living systems that help keep human communities alive.

Learn more:

“Canadian town officially recognizes trees as living beings with rights.” The Independent.