



Civil & Mineral Engineering
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

November 17th, 2020

Dear Budget Measures committee:

Re: Request to appear at the budget committee and comments regarding Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act tabled in Bill 229 Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Ac (Budget Measures), 2020.

I am an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Civil & Mineral Engineering at the University of Toronto and a Professional Engineer. My expertise is in urban flooding, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and low impact development. I am one of the highest cited experts on permeable pavements in North America, I am a lead research with the award winning green roof innovation testing laboratory (gritlab) and regularly interview with the media to explain why urban flooding happens and how we can mitigate its effects. I am proud to be a born and raised Ontarian and a made-in-Ontario academic (my undergraduate and graduate alma mater are McMaster University and the University of Guelph, respectively).

My contributions to my field have been recognized provincially (e.g. I am a 2017 recipient of an Ontario Early Research Award and am the 2018 OPEA Engineering Medal – Young Professional recipient) and nationally (I am the 2019 Engineers Canada Young Engineer award recipient and am a judge for the Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards as a Water Resources expert). I am also the lead-PI for a \$1.6 Million CREATE training network called the Design of Living Infrastructure for Ecosystem Services (DesignLIFES). I teach undergraduate and graduate courses in Water Resources Engineering, Stormwater and Low Impact Development, Hydrology and Hydraulics.

Since 2015 it has been my honor to serve as a citizen representative for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Currently I also serve on the executive board of directors for TRCA and am the Chair of the Toronto Regional Watershed Alliance.

I am severely concerned and opposed to several of the proposed amendments to the Conservation Authority Act. These amendments, if passed, will **drastically inhibit** Conservation Authorities' abilities to deliver on their core mandate of **protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards and conserving natural resources**.

I call on the government to repeal section 6 of Bill 229 Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Ac (Budget Measures), 2020 and request the opportunity to present my expert opinion on this issue to the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Drake".

Jennifer Drake, Ph.D., Ph.D