



Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

November 27, 2020

Committee Clerk, Attn: Julia Douglas
Legislative Assembly of Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
99 Wellesley Street West Room 1405,
Whitney Block Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A2

Dear Ms. Douglas,

Re: Provincial Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget
Measurers), 2020

Please be advised that the Board of Directors for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority considered a motion regarding Provincial Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measurers), 2020 on November 27, 2020.

Subsequently, the following motion was adopted:

Recommendation:

Moved by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea Matrosovs

WHEREAS: the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act; and

WHEREAS: the Legislation introduces several changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications; and

WHEREAS: we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property, and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act; and

WHEREAS: the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without conservation authority watershed data and expertise; and

WHEREAS: the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs;

WHEREAS: municipalities require a longer transition time to put in place agreements with conservation authorities for non-mandatory programs; and

WHEREAS: municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on conservation authority boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the conservation authority boards should be duly elected; and

WHEREAS: the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a conservation authority board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed; WHEREAS: conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;

WHEREAS: changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process;

AND WHEREAS: municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within conservation authority jurisdictions for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value conservation authorities' work to ensure safe drinking water;

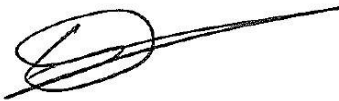
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1) THAT the Province of Ontario remove Schedule 6 from proposed Bill 229 - Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act (Budget Measures); and
- 2) THAT the Province continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth; and
- 3) THAT the Province respect the current conservation authority and municipal relationships; and
- 4) THAT the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role; and
- 5) THAT the Province introduce any such amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act as standalone legislation through the Environmental Registry as prescribed in Section 33 of the Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993 (EBR) , thereby allowing Conservation Authorities, Municipalities and the public to participate in the provincial decision-making process; and
- 6) FURTHER THAT a covering letter and this approved resolution be forwarded on or before 7:00p.m., December 2, 2020 to:

Committee Clerk, Attn: Julia Douglas, Legislative Assembly of Ontario Standing
Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs 99 Wellesley Street West Room 1405,
Whitney Block Queen's Park Toronto ON M7A 1A2

cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Rod Philips, Minister of Finance
Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Conservation
Ontario
Kim Gavine, General Manager Conservation Ontario
Wayne Emmerson, Chair of Conservation Ontario
CAO's of the other 35 Conservation Authorities

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Hevenor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Hevenor
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Rod Philips, Minister of Finance
Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
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