

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 2, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28726
Attachments: ltr ACER re Bill 229, Sections 6 and 8.docx

Submitted on Wed, 12/02/2020 - 15:35

Application ID: 28726

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020**

Choose a topic

Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?

Yes

Choose an application

Which application would you like to submit?

Submit material only

Which deadline would you like to submit your written material for?

[Written Submission Deadline: 7:00 p.m. \(EST\) on Wednesday, December 2, 2020](#)

Add your information

Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am an employee or member submitting material on behalf of an organization

Full name

Ms Alice Casselman

Job title or role

Founding President

Contact phone number

[905-601-7685](#)

Organization name

Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER)

Branch, division, or office (e.g., "Bloor-Gladstone Branch" or "Sudbury Chapter")

NA

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Postal or zip code

L5G 3B5

Province or state

ON

Country

Canada

Document upload

- [ltr ACER re Bill 229, Sections 6 and 8.docx](#)

Would you like to add any other information?

Presented to Standing Committee in 2016 and sat with MNR revising handbook - ACER forest plots have earlier data measurements
for carbon calculations to help offset ghg emissions when funded.

November 30, 2020

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

ACER- Association for Canadian Educational Resources a registered charity was founded in 1987 to provide everyday scientists with needed information, training and equipment to monitor the impacts of climate change.

The lack of EBR reporting to the public has skewed the opportunity of public input to respond to proposed Bill 229 Schedule 6 and amendments dealing with changes to Ontario Conservation Authorities Act.

The Conservation Authorities Act was last revised with recommendations after broad consultation – see attached ACER letter 2016. Consequences of our rapidly changing climate which are now being experienced require a holistic approach to watersheds – as originally realized with current 36 Authorities in Conservation Ontario. Mapping and research of riparian zones is one a small piece of their responsibilities to Ontarians. Education of the landowners and general public is needed in order for all work together to meet the changing demands of our green spaces and water courses, especially in our highly urbanized parts of province.

ACER, supported by the provincial Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, has worked with 13 Conservation Authorities (CA's) to provide protocol driven monitoring of riparian zone plantings carried out by trained local volunteers. Just one opportunity for public education as data is collected and shared as a basis for decisions for future forests on their watersheds. Each activity and program carried out by conservation authorities includes opportunities for public engagement, recreation and education.

Now more than ever opportunities, during and post Covid, CA's need to encourage people of Ontario to get outdoors, to stay healthy and resilient and to include teachings of Indigenous knowledge with cultural respect for the land. The public must to learn about ecosystem services and understand their personal role in preserving and restoring our natural habitat/ biodiversity for their own community in their own watershed.

Conservation Authorities and their partners must be given the scope on each watershed to manage the risk to our communities - holistically – especially with ballooning costs of increased frequency and extreme intensity of weather occurring today at great cost to all taxpayers.

ACER supports removal of Schedule 6, proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and consequential amendments.

Beginning in 1997, ACER established many Go Global international forest biodiversity plots across southern Ontario with CA's and others to monitor and report on changes in our forests.

ACER opposes the entirety of Schedule 8 and calls for its withdrawal from Bill 229.

