

Letter to  
Premier Kathleen Wynne  
PC Interim Leader Vic Fedeli  
NDP Leader Andrea Horwath

Subject: Increase base funding to Ontario Conservation Authorities

The Council of \_\_\_\_\_ recognizes that there is only one taxpayer supporting all levels of government and that these are challenging times for the Province of Ontario with respect to its budget. We also recognize that transfer payment funding cuts to the Conservation Authorities were initially implemented in 1995, and have subsequently never been increased in the 22 years since, remaining at the same 1995 dollar value, with the only change being the further cut of several hundred thousand dollars directed at the two largest of the Authorities, Toronto Region and Grand River.

As a member municipality of our local Conservation Authority we followed with interest the multi-year review of the Conservation Authorities Act in which a consistent message was heard from virtually all stakeholders that there was a need for the Province of Ontario to address the chronic underfunding of the Conservation Authorities.

We wish to point out that while the base funding for Conservation Authorities comes through the MNR&F, and the MOE&CC for Drinking Water Source Protection, the work that Conservation Authorities do in partnership with those ministries also benefits other provincial ministries through the various programs and projects of the Authorities, i.e. Education; Health; Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Municipal Affairs and Housing; Tourism, Recreation and Culture; Infrastructure; and Community Safety.

Further, we observed that during debate on Bill 139 addressing the proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, MPPs of *all* parties were supportive of the work of the Conservation Authorities, and acknowledged the need to address the chronic underfunding. We also observed that the subsequent passage of Bill 139 received *all* party support so as to be passed in the Legislature in December of 2017, and receive Royal Assent immediately thereafter.

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Council of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby requests that the Province of Ontario, demonstrate their all party support for Conservation Authorities and the work that they do on behalf of all our ratepayers by increasing the transfer payment allocation through reallocation of dollars from other benefiting provincial ministries, or other new revenues, i.e. Carbon Cap and Trade revenues; and

That the Council of \_\_\_\_\_ direct staff to forward a copy of this letter and resolution to the Ministers of Finance, MNR&F, MOE&CC, Education, Health, Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Municipal Affairs & Housing, Tourism, Recreation & Culture, Infrastructure, and Community Safety; local MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Conservation Ontario; and the member municipalities of its local Conservation Authority.