

November 25, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
823 Albion Road
Etobicoke, ON M9V 1A3

Dear Mr. Ford:

Re: Motion regarding – Notice to withdraw from Schedule 6 from Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act

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The following resolution #CC2020-272 was passed by the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on November 24, 2020:

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

AND WHEREAS the Legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the critical role of Ontario's conservation authorities in regulating development, in the permit appeal process and when engaging in planning applications;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury relies on the watershed expertise provided by the Nickel District Conservation Authority (operating as Conservation Sudbury) to protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis. The Authority reduces risks to our community from hazards such as flooding in low-lying neighbourhoods, erosion of the banks of rivers such as the Vermilion and the Whitson, the dynamic shorelines of Wanapitei Lake and our more than 300 other lakes, and unstable ground near wetlands and steep valley slopes, which is achieved by regulating development and by engaging in reviews of proposals subject to the Planning Act;

AND WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to make decisions without the benefit of a conservation authority's science based watershed data and expertise;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation provides the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks with the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs, which locally could impact the education offerings that include school field trips to the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area. This would also apply to events such as the popular family fishing days and to the public's access to Camp Bitobig that runs in July and August. These are and must be local-level agreements between the City of Greater Sudbury and Conservation Sudbury to serve demands in our community;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury believes that the appointment of representatives to the Conservation Sudbury Board should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair should be duly elected annually;

AND WHEREAS the proposed changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a Conservation Sudbury board Member. Our appointed Members serve our residents by acting in the best interests of Conservation Sudbury and invariably its member municipality, as it carries out its responsibilities to the watershed;

AND WHEREAS all conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, the land development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;

AND WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more "red tape", increasing costs for both Conservation Sudbury and therefore the taxpayers in the City of Greater Sudbury and will potentially result in delays and greater uncertainty in the development-approval process;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury values and relies on our natural spaces and water resources for the health and well-being of residents; we value Conservation Sudbury's work to prevent and reduce the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and we value our conservation authority's contributions to ensure safe drinking water;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the City of Greater Sudbury, with the support of Conservation Sudbury, requests the following:

- THAT the Minister of Finance withdraws Schedule 6 from Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act and,*
- THAT the Province of Ontario works with all conservation authorities to find viable solutions to reduce "red tape" and create conditions for growth,*
- AND THAT the Province support its long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities by providing them with the tools and financial resources needed to effectively implement their watershed management role.*

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, the Honourable John Yakubuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Jamie West MPP for Sudbury, France Gelinis MPP for Nickel Belt, to Conservation Sudbury and all Ontario municipalities.

Sincerely,



Eric Labelle
City Solicitor and Clerk