



Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
Premier@ontario.ca

SENT BY EMAIL

December 11, 2020

Re: Council Resolution – Bill 229

Further to the Meeting of Council on December 1, 2020 Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Marmora and Lake passed the following motion:

MOTION2020DEC01-276

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mike Stevens
Seconded by Councillor Ron Derry

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

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

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.

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without CA watershed data and expertise.

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 believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on CA Boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CA Board should be duly elected.

WHEREAS the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a CA 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, and 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 our jurisdiction for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value the conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value the conservation authority's work to ensure safe drinking water.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Province of Ontario repeal Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229).

THAT the Province continues to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth.

THAT the Province respects the current conservation authority/municipal relationships.

THAT the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

THAT Council supports the resolution of the Town of Mono passed on November 24, 2020, regarding Schedule 6 of Bill 229.

AND THAT Council supports the resolution of the City of Quinte West passed on November 16, 2020, regarding Schedule 6 of Bill 229.



FURTHER THAT this resolution is forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Bay of Quinte MPP Todd Smith, AMO, Conservation Ontario, CVCA and Quinte Conservation.

Carried

I trust this is the information you require, however, should additional information or clarification be required do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bennett,
Deputy Clerk
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cc: The Honourable Doug Ford
Todd Smith, MPP Prince Edward-Hastings
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
Conservation Ontario
Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
Quinte Conservation
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Municipalities within the Province of Ontario