

**Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry****Ministère des Richesses  
naturelles et des Forêts**

Office of the Minister

Bureau de la ministre

Room 6630, Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tel: 416-314-2301  
Fax: 416-314-2216

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6630  
99, rue Wellesley Ouest  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3  
Tél.: 416-314-2301  
Télééc.: 416-314-2216



JAN 18 2017

MNR6446MC-2017-57

His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for sharing with me your Council's resolution regarding the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is currently undergoing a review of the *Conservation Authorities Act* to ensure it is meeting the modern needs of Ontarians. Your concern about the lack of transparency is one we have heard from the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities as part of this review.

My ministry has identified five key priorities that are the current focus of the review, one of which is strengthening oversight and accountability in conservation authority decision-making. I am aware that improvements can be made to strengthen conservation authority governance and accountability and will be looking to do this when we move forward with new legislation.

However, I regret to inform you that the current avenue to address any concerns with the management of the NPCA would be through your own municipal-appointed representatives on the NPCA board.

Under the current act, conservation authority boards are set up as corporate bodies and governed by a board of directors, whose members are appointed by the participating municipalities explicitly for the purpose of representing the interests of their communities.

As local autonomous boards, the ministry does not have the legislative ability to order a forensic audit. The province oversees the policy relating to conservation authorities but it is municipalities, like you, who have the sole authority to appoint the boards. MNRF's interests are in flood control and watershed management, and we have no hand in the operations or operational oversight of conservation authorities.

Each of the respective participating municipalities has the responsibility to appoint their members consistent with the NPCA's published board selection process. Appointed members have the authority to vote and generally act on behalf of their respective municipalities.

I wanted to reiterate that it is up to the member you have appointed to the NPCA board to represent the interests of your municipality and its residents.

Therefore, you should direct your local representative on the NPCA board to put forward a motion to the board calling for this thorough investigation. Once this motion is put forward, the board can vote on it and subsequently decide to launch an investigation.

Below is a list of the current board members and the municipalities they represent. I strongly urge you to take up any concerns you have with the operation of the NPCA with your appointed member.

Councillor Bruce Timms, Chair  
City of St. Catharines

Mayor Frank Campion  
City of Welland

Councillor Sandy Annunziata, Vice Chair  
Town of Fort Erie

Lord Mayor Patrick Darté  
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Councillor Brian Baty  
Town of Pelham

Mayor Jim Diodati  
City of Niagara Falls

J. Stewart Beattie  
City of Hamilton

Dominic DiFruscio  
City of Thorold

James Kaspersetz  
City of Hamilton

Councillor Bill Hodgson  
Town of Lincoln

Mayor April Jeffs  
Township of Wainfleet

Mayor Douglas Joyner  
Township of West Lincoln

Mayor John Maloney  
City of Port Colborne

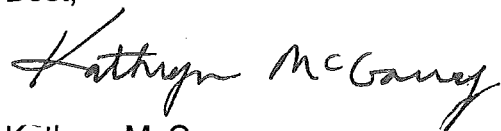
Councillor Tony Quirk  
Township of Grimsby

Councillor Rob Shirton  
Haldimand County

Please feel to contact me or my office, should you require additional information on the process.

Thank you again for writing.

Best,



Kathryn McGarry  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Premier Kathleen Wynne  
Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General of Ontario

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
JAN 23 2017	
REF'D TO	<u>Janet</u>
REF'D TO	_____
REF'D TO	_____
ACTION	<u>Sept Council</u>
_____	