

TOWN OF ERIN

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Hon Chris Ballard, MPP
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2T5

December 5, 2017

RE: Town of Erin – Limited Funding towards Conservation Authorities

Dear Minister Ballard:

As a small tier municipality— the Town of Erin is currently on the forefront of witnessing the inequity of funding resources and ongoing pressures from the tax base to continue supporting the Conservation Authorities. As it currently stands, the Conservation Authorities are mainly funded through local municipalities and their tax base. However, the Town of Erin believes that the Province of Ontario must continue to contribute to these efforts, in order to sustain the same level of service that Conservation Authorities currently uphold.

It is undeniable that the work that organizations such as Credit Valley Conservation Authority and Grand Valley Conservation Authority do is monumental in maintaining and protecting the Province's watershed; providing high quality programming for current residents and future generations. Whilst the Town of Erin appreciates the work currently being done, municipalities are being required to disproportionately provide funding to Conservation Authorities that is beyond our direct control. Despite having representation on the Boards of these agencies, they operate under provincial statute, therefore, municipalities are challenged to maintain affordable levels of taxation.

Despite the best efforts of local governments to innovate and find creative solutions to deliver key public services— doing more with less has become increasingly challenging. Therefore, I believe that the Province of Ontario should opt to provide direct funding to Conservation Authorities without placing the financial burden upon the local taxpayer. Although the Town of Erin believes there is a benefit to the local population in regards to Conservation Authorities work, the benefit is far greater for the province as a whole.

In regards to this issue, I would like to formally request that the Province of Ontario provides considerable funding to Conservation Authorities such as the Credit Valley and Grand River Conservation on behalf of small tier municipalities such as the Town of Erin.

Thank you for taking the time to address the following correspondence, and I look forward to your continued support on the following matter.

Sincerely,

Allan Alls, Mayor
Town of Erin

CC: Municipalities of the Credit River Conservation Authority;
Municipalities of the Grand Valley Conservation Authority