

Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Ministère de l'Environnement
et de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tel.: 416-314-6790
Fax: 416-314-6748

77, rue Wellesley Ouest
11^e étage, édifice Ferguson
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tél. : 416-314-6790
Télééc. : 416-314-6748

MAR 19 2018

ENV1283MC-2018-305

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
Email: mayor@hamilton.ca

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter of February 6, 2018 to Minister McGarry, former Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, and me regarding funding for Ontario's conservation authorities (CAs).

I recognize the important work being undertaken by CAs in Ontario to preserve and protect our province's natural areas. Much of the work done by CAs is governed and funded under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, which is administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Accordingly, it is appropriate that you also sent your message to that ministry, so that the Minister is aware of your comments.

My ministry works with CAs on a number of initiatives where direct funding is provided. For example, under the *Clean Water Act*, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has fully funded the cost of the development and ongoing management of local source protection plans. In addition, we have provided direct support to small, rural municipalities to help them implement these plans. Your comments about the ongoing need for funding are appreciated, and I have shared a copy of your letter with appropriate program staff so that they are aware of your message.

As part of their recent review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is continuing to look at ways to better coordinate and fund the programs CAs undertake for various ministries.

As you may also know, CAs receive revenue from other sources, including municipalities, self-generated revenue and provincial grants.

Thank you, again, for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Ballard".

Chris Ballard
Minister

c: The Honourable Nathalie Des Rosiers, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Mr. Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale