

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs

NOV 22 2018



Office of the Minister

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NOV 15 2018

357-2018-261

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
2nd Floor- 71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger: 

Thank you for your July 18, 2018 letter congratulating me on my appointment as Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and inquiring about conservation authority levies. I apologize for not replying sooner.

I am pleased to assume the responsibilities of my new role, and your support is appreciated.

Our government is committed to working harder, smarter and more efficiently to make life better for the residents of our province. When Ontarians work together, there is no challenge that cannot be overcome.

I look forward to working with our stakeholders and partners to ensure we pass on a cleaner environment to future generations.

I appreciate learning about your concerns with regard to conservation authority levies. I would like to provide you with the following information.

At present, I am unable to comment on the specific matter of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority levy, given that the matter is before the courts.

However, the *Conservation Authorities Act* was amended in December of 2017 with the stated purpose of clarifying the roles and responsibilities of conservation authorities, increasing clarity and consistency in regulatory requirements, and strengthening oversight and accountability. Among other things, the revisions to the *Conservation Authorities Act* provide for changes to modernize funding mechanisms, including how levies are apportioned among municipalities.

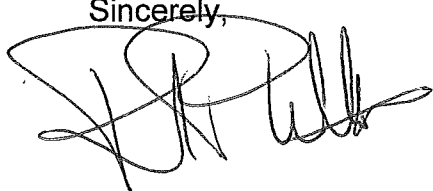
His Worship Fred Eisenberger
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Once those amendments to the Act are proclaimed, the apportionment will be determined based on the new regulations which will be developed. The regulations will need consultation with stakeholders, municipalities and conservation authorities.

To this end, I look forward to working collaboratively with you to figure out how best to improve levy apportionment, and welcome any suggestions for improvement you may have.

Again, thank you for your support, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Rod Phillips
Minister

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
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REF'D TO	Council Dec 19/18
REF'D TO	_____
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ACTION	_____