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Protecting the Natural
 Environment from
 Lake to Escarpment

May 7, 2019

The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
 Whitney Block, Suite 6630, 6th Floor
 99 Wellesley St. W, Toronto, ON M7A 1W3
 Tel: 416-314-2301
 Email: john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Yakabuski,

On behalf of the Conservation Halton Board of Directors please note that the following resolution was passed on April 25 2019: Provincial Cutbacks to Conservation Authorities for Flood Forecasting and Control, Report # CHBD 05 19 12 (attached to this letter).

The report summarizes the impact of the Provincial transfer payments reduction by 50% for 2019 announced by the Province of Ontario through the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry 2019 Budget allocations.

The Chief Administrative Officer of Conservation Halton received a letter signed by Monique Rolf von den Baumen, Assistant Deputy Minister (dated April 12 2019) that the Halton Region Conservation Authority will receive \$155,034.34 in funding for the 2019-20 fiscal year, for Section 39 Eligible Natural Hazard Management Grant. The reduced provincial funding will result in a 2019 budget variance of \$145,277, and an increase of 1.5%. The announcement comes after CA's budgets have already been approved.

Conservation Authorities have a mandate to prevent, mitigate and forecast flooding within their respective watersheds. Provincial funding (transfer payments) have traditionally been provided to assist CAs with addressing their core mandate, namely flood forecasting and hazard management.

Impacts (decreases) to CA budgets regarding flood forecasting would result in an increased risk to members of the public associated with property damage, personal injury and possibly, loss of life.

CA's sources of funding have been a combination of the Province and municipalities within their watersheds, and the loss in Conservation Halton's budget would transfer to the Municipal (Regional) levy and result in a 1.5% increase in its budget request from its watershed funding Municipalities.

Conservation Halton will see an increase of budget needs of 1.5% in the coming years and to mitigate the impact to the 2019 Budget the funds will have to be transferred from reserves.

Regards,
 Gerry Smallegange

Chair, Conservation Halton Board of Directors

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C.C

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
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Halton Members of Federal Parliament (MPs):

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Opposition parties offices in Halton Region

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City of Hamilton
City of Mississauga
Regions of Halton
Region of Peel

General Manager's at:
Conservation Ontario
Toronto Region Conservation Authority
Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Hamilton Conservation Authority
Grand River Conservation Authority

REPORT TO: Board of Directors

REPORT NO: # CHBD 05 19 12

FROM: Moya Johnson & Mike Cluett

DATE: April 25, 2019

SUBJECT: **Provincial Cutbacks to Conservation Authorities for Flood Forecasting and Control**

Recommendation

THAT the Conservation Halton Board of Directors direct the **Chair of Conservation Halton to write to the Honorable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to express his and the Board of Directors concerns related to the loss of provincial funding and request that the Province of Ontario reinvest in Conservation Authority Flood Forecasting, Operations and Natural Hazards management core programs,**

And

THAT the Conservation Halton Board of Directors direct the CAO to provide **a copy of this letter and resolution to the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Rod Phillips, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and to the Towns of Halton Hills, Milton, Puslinch and Oakville, the Cities of Burlington, Hamilton, Mississauga, and the Regions of Halton and Peel and all Halton MPPs and MPs.**

Report

This report summarizes the impact of the Provincial transfer payments reduction by 50% for 2019 announced by the Province of Ontario through the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry 2019 Budget allocations.

The Chief Administrative Officer of Conservation Halton received a letter signed by Monique Rolf von den Baumen, Assistant Deputy Minister (dated April 12 and attached to this report) that the Halton Region Conservation Authority will receive \$155,034.34 in funding for the 2019-20 fiscal year, for Section 39 Eligible Natural Hazard Management Grant. The reduced provincial funding will result in a 2019 budget variance of \$145,277, and an increase of 1.5%. The announcement comes after CA's budgets have already been approved.

Conservation Authorities have a mandate to prevent, mitigate and forecast flooding within their respective watersheds. Provincial funding (transfer payments) have traditionally been provided to assist CAs with addressing their core mandate, namely flood forecasting and hazard area management.

Impacts (decreases) to CA budgets regarding flood forecasting would result in an increased risk to members of the public associated with property damage, personal injury and possibly, loss of life.

CAs sources of funding have been a combination of the Province and municipalities within their watersheds, and the loss in Conservation Halton's budget would transfer to the Municipal (Regional) levy and result in a 1.5% increase in its budget request from its watershed funding Municipalities.

Impact on Strategic Goals

This report supports the Metamorphosis strategic theme of Taking care of our growing communities.

Financial Impact

Conservation Halton will see an increase of budget needs of 1.5% in the coming years and to mitigate the impact to the 2019 Budget the funds will have to be transferred from reserves. Other cost mitigation options will be considered during the budget variance and projection reporting to minimize the need for the full amount of the reserve transfer.

Moved by:

Councillor Moya Johnson

Seconded by:

Councillor Mike Cluett