



Community Services

Legislative Services

February 26, 2019

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
 Premier's Office
 Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Participation of Local Municipalities in the Financial Administration and Governance of Conservation Authorities and Endorsement and Support

The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of February 25, 2019 passed the following resolution:

Whereas Niagara Regional Council is accountable to the taxpayers of The Regional Municipality of Niagara, which includes taxpayers in the Town of Fort Erie, and

Whereas an investigation by the Auditor General of Ontario identified several areas of concern at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, including \$3.8 million in purchases between 2013 and 2017 that did not adhere to its own policies for the competitive acquisition of goods and services, and

Whereas the 2018 and 2019 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority budgets presented to Niagara Regional Council did not provide a full accounting of all spending to the satisfaction of Regional Council, and

Whereas Niagara Regional Council lacks the authority to approve, reject or otherwise modify a budget presented by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, despite Council's accountability to the taxpayers of the Region, and

Whereas voters in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, including the Town of Fort Erie, sent a strong message on October 22, 2018 for the need for honesty, integrity, accountability and transparency in the way governance in the Region and at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is conducted;

Now therefore be it resolved,

That: The Town of Fort Erie hereby requests that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority provide a full and transparent accounting of all spending in its 2018 and 2019

operating and capital budgets to Niagara Regional Council, and continue to do so for each subsequent year, and further

That: The Town of Fort Erie requests the Provincial Government to amend the *Conservation Authorities Act* to provide responsible municipalities within the watershed of a Conservation Authority greater oversight over Conservation Authority budgets including, but not necessarily limited to, the ability to approve, reject or modify a budget presented by a Conservation Authority in any given year and the ability to withhold funding should a Conservation Authority fail to provide a full and transparent accounting of its revenues and expenditures as reasonably requested from time to time, and further

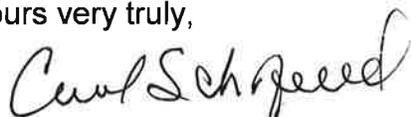
That: This resolution be sent to the Premier, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Members of Provincial Parliament for the Niagara ridings, the Chair and Clerk of The Regional Municipality of Niagara, the Chair and Secretary of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and further

That: This resolution be sent to The Regional Municipality of Niagara, the Local Area Municipalities in Niagara, the City of Hamilton, and Haldimand County, for their endorsement and support.

This resolution is also being sent to The Regional Municipality of Niagara, the Local Area Municipalities in Niagara, the City of Hamilton, and Haldimand County, for their endorsement and support.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Carol Schofield,

Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

cschofield@forterie.ca

CS:dlk

cc: The Honourable John Yakabouski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry *Sent via email:*

john.yakabuskico@pc.ola.org

Wayne Gates, MPP-Niagara Falls, Legislative Assembly of Ontario *Sent via email:* wgates-co@ndp.on.ca

Sam Oosterhoff, MPP-Niagara West-Glanbrook, Legislative Assembly of Ontario *Sent via email:* sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org

Jennifer Stevens, MPP-St. Catharines *Sent via email:* JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca

Jeff Burch, MPP-Niagara Centre *Sent via email:* JBurch-QP@ndp.on.ca

Jim Bradley, Regional Chair *Sent via email:* jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, Niagara Region *Sent via email:* ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca

Dave Bylsma, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Chair *Sent via email:* dbylsma@westlincoln.ca/dbylsma@npca.ca

David Barrick, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Interim CAO/Secretary Treasurer *Sent via email:* dbarrick@npca.ca

Rose Caterini, City Clerk, City of Hamilton *Sent via email:* clerk@hamilton.ca

Evelyn Eichenbaum, Clerk, Haldimand County *Sent via email:* eeichenbaum@haldimandcounty.on.ca

Niagara Local Area Municipalities *Sent via email*