

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

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

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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OCT 16 2019

OCT 22 2019

357-2019-2646

The Honourable Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter about conservation authorities (CAs).

CAs have a role in protecting residents and property from flooding and other natural hazards.

Over the years, CAs have expanded their roles and responsibilities into activities such as ziplining, maple syrup festivals, and photography and wedding permits. Due to the potential for more extreme weather events that could threaten our homes, businesses and infrastructure, it is important that CAs refocus on delivering their core mandate. At the same time, we must ensure we are using taxpayer dollars more efficiently.

Accordingly, our government passed Bill 108, *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*, which received Royal Assent on June 6, 2019. Our government will modernize the *Conservation Authorities Act* by clarifying the core mandate of CAs, updating how they use municipal levies and fees to pay for programs and services, and streamlining the role CAs play in municipal planning to make approvals faster and less costly. Our aim is to ensure that we improve overall governance, oversight and accountability of CAs.

We are giving municipalities greater control and the ability to enter into agreements with CAs to fund any programs and services outside of the core mandate, if they choose.

As I made clear in my August 16, 2019 letter to CAs, I will be reviewing all of the relevant legislation and regulations that govern Ontario's CAs with an eye to focusing their efforts on their core mandate.

Bringing CAs back to their core mandate will allow for municipalities to better manage CA budgets and programs. The legislative changes we have made ensure CAs focus on delivering core services and programs that protect communities from natural hazards and flooding while using taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

The Honourable Fred Eisenberger
Page 2.

We have already begun consultations with conservation authorities and will continue to engage with municipalities, indigenous communities, and other interested parties that are involved with the stewardship of our lands to discuss how we best focus on core mandate.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,



Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
OCT 27 2019	
REF'D TO	_____
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ACTION	<u>Council</u> <u>Nov 13</u>
	