

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council: November 25, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L. FERGUSON.....

Bill 229 - Proposed Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

WHEREAS, the funding for the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) budget is as follows, with the principal funders of the HCA being the City of Hamilton and self generated revenues with the Province contributing 2%:

- Self generated 58%
- City of Hamilton 37%
- Hamilton Conservation Foundation 2%
- Township of Puslinch 1%
- Province 2%

WHEREAS, Bill 229, will remove the HCA's authority to issue stop work orders when catastrophic damage is occurring in a protected area;

WHEREAS, Bill 229, provides the Minister with the authority to make decisions respecting the watershed, without the HCA's watershed data and expertise;

WHEREAS, Bill 229, proposes to permit applicants to appeal a decision to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT), which are currently appealed to the HCA;

WHEREAS, Bill 229, removes citizen appointees who currently provide valuable expertise that Councillors may not have (legal, communications, and environmental expertise etc.) from HCA's current membership (5 (five) Hamilton Councillors; 5 (five) citizens appointed by Hamilton City Council and 1 (one) member appointed by the Township of Puslinch);

WHEREAS, Bill 229, has Municipal Chairs and Vice Chairs rotating to a different municipality every two years, which will result in the appointee from the Township of Puslinch holding an unelected position on the Board as Chair or Vice Chair in perpetuity, while only contributing 1% of the revenue; and

WHEREAS, Bill 229, will remove the HCA's ability to expropriate lands, which is an important last resort tool the HCA has for land acquisition in our watershed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Province of Ontario withdraw Schedule 6 of the *Budget Measures Act* (Bill 229);

- (b) That the Province continue to work with Conservation Authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth;
- (c) That the Province respect the current Conservation Authority / Municipal relationships;
- (d) That the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with the Conservation Authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role; and
- (e) That this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance; Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment; Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; local MPP's; Ted Arnott, MPP Puslinch; the local Media; Conservation Ontario.