



June 3, 2021

357-2021-902

Lloyd Ferguson, Chair
Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca

Lisa Burnside, CAO
Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca

Dear Ms. Burnside and Mr. Ferguson,

Thank you for your application submitted on March 9, 2021 on behalf of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA), seeking a Minister's exception under the *Conservation Authorities Act* related to recently proclaimed legislative amendments affecting chair and vice-chair appointments.

After carefully considering your application regarding the appointment of a chair and vice-chair, I am granting the HRCA an exception to subsections 17 (1.1) and (1.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* pursuant to my authority under clauses 17(1.3) (a) and (b). This exception allows the current chair and vice-chair to be re-appointed for a total of two more years, subject to re-election in both 2021 and 2022, and to therefore hold office for more than two consecutive terms. I am also granting an exception to allow the HRCA to re-appoint as chair and vice-chair members who have been appointed by the same participating municipality. This would mean there would be no rotation of the chair and vice-chair amongst participating municipalities for the next two years for the duration of the re-appointment, subject to re-elections in 2021 and 2022.

I note that the intent of the changes made through Bill 229, the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)*, 2020, to section 17 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* were to encourage fuller representation and perspectives from participating municipalities in a conservation authority. I encourage the HRCA membership to take this into account when considering future appointments to the positions of chair and vice-chair. I would ask that you share this correspondence with all members of the HRCA, and please invite the Town of Puslinch to contact me in writing regarding the rotational requirements, should this be of concern.

...2

Ms. Burnside and Mr. Ferguson

Page 2

I appreciate the dedication of the HRCA for your continued work and contributions to protecting people and property from natural hazards, the conservation and management of conservation authority-owned lands, and your role in drinking water source protection. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Jeff Yurek', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

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