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November 17, 2020

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

premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Premier Ford,

RE: Township of King Resolution
- **Provincial Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)**
Request to Address Several Changes Introduced by the Province to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act

At its Council meeting of November 16, 2020, Council of the Township of King received and unanimously supported a Resolution put forward by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) with respect to seeking support that the Province address several changes introduced to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act* in Bill 229 as follows:

WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – *Conservation Authorities Act*,

WHEREAS the Legislation introduces several changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications;

WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property, and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the *Planning Act*,

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without conservation authority watershed data and expertise;

WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs;

WHEREAS municipalities require a longer transition time to put in place agreements with conservation authorities for non-mandatory programs;

WHEREAS municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on conservation authority boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the conservation authority boards should be duly elected;

WHEREAS the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a conservation authority board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed;

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process;

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within conservation authority jurisdictions for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value conservation authorities' work to ensure safe drinking water;

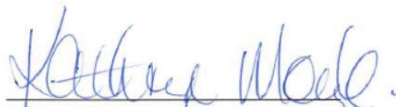
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- **THAT** the Province of Ontario work with conservation authorities to address their concerns by repealing and/or amending changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act* set out in Bill 229;
- **THAT** the Province of Ontario delay enactment of clauses affecting municipal concerns;
- **THAT** the Province of Ontario provide a longer transition period up to December 2022 for non- mandatory programs to enable coordination of conservation authority municipal budget processes;
- **THAT** the Province respect the current conservation authority/municipal relationships;
- **AND 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 FURTHER THAT this Resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Stephen Lecce, MPP King-Vaughan, Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP York-Simcoe, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Yours truly,



Kathryn Moyle
Director of Corporate Services
Township Clerk

cc. Mike Walters, CAO, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
m.walters@lsrca.on.ca
Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
minister.mecp@ontario.ca
Hon. John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
minister.mnrf@ontario.ca
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing minister.mah@ontario.ca
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance minister.fin@ontario.ca
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