



November 30, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier,

At its meeting of November 27, 2020, Ontario's Big City Mayors passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS on November 5, 2020, the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 229, the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020, which proposes changes to Conservation Authorities' permitting, planning and enforcement powers (contained in Schedule 6);

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities play a critical role protecting our environment and natural heritage, mitigating natural hazards, and supporting municipal partners by providing an environmental, conservation and risk assessment lens on development applications;

AND WHEREAS proposed changes in Schedule 6 of Bill 229 have raised concerns amongst Conservation Authorities, First Nations, environmental groups, and community members in Ontario Big City Mayors' municipalities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Ontario Big City Mayors ask the Government of Ontario to remove Schedule 6 of Bill 229 to allow for further consultations to address these concerns, including the development of proposals that will improve Conservation Authority operations while strengthening environmental protections for the people of Ontario and ensuring cost-neutrality for municipal governments;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, 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, the leaders of Ontario's opposition parties, Conservation Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jeff Lehman
OBCM Chair

Mayor Cam Guthrie
OBCM Chair 2019-20

Mayor Jeff Lehman, Chair
70 Collier Street, Barrie ON L4M 4T5
officeofthemayor@barrie.ca
705-792-7900
ontariobigcitymayors.ca

Cc: The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Andrea Horwath, MPP, Leader of the NDP
Mike Schreiner, MPP, Leader of the Green Party
Steven Del Duca, Leader of the Liberal Party
Conservation Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

