



The Corporation of

THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

157101 Highway 10, Melancthon, Ontario, L9V 2E6

Telephone - (519) 925-5525

Fax No. - (519) 925-1110

Website: www.melancthontownship.ca

Email: info@melancthontownship.ca

November 30, 2020

Legislative Assembly of Ontario Standing Committee on Finance
and Economic Affairs
99 Wellesley Street
West Room 1405
Whitney Block Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2

Attention: Julia Douglas, Clerk

Dear Ms. Douglas:

Re: Schedule 6 of Bill 229 and Conservation Authorities

The Township of Melancthon is a member of three Conservation Authorities – Nottawasaga Valley, Grand River and Saugeen Valley and we value the services provided by these Conservation Authorities.

The Township relies on their expertise to protect the health and well-being of our residents, values their work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards, and values their work to ensure that we all have safe drinking water.

There are a number of issues/concerns that the Township would like to outline regarding Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act, Schedule 6, Conservation Authorities Act, and these are noted below:

- there are a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the Conservation Authority's role in regulating development, the permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications. The Township relies on the watershed expertise that is provided by the local Conservation Authorities, as we could not possibly afford to hire our own engineers, planners, ecologists, hydrogeologists, etc., to do the work that the Conservation Authorities do for us, when reviewing applications submitted under the *Planning Act*.

- there are changes to the Act that will allow the Minister to make decisions without Conservation Authority data and expertise and 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.
- the Township believes 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 be duly elected.
- 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.
- the 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.

In closing, I request that the Province of Ontario remove Schedule 6 of the Act in its entirety, and debate it on its own merit. I would ask that the Province continue to work with the Conservation Authorities to find a workable solution to reduce red tape and create conditions of growth. I would also request that the Province respects the current Conservation Authority and 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.

Respectfully,



Darren White,
Mayor

- c. Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, MPP Dufferin Caledon
Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Conservation Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Grand River Conservation Authority
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority