



Jim Watson
Mayor Maire

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November 30th, 2020

The Honourable Rod Phillips,
Minister of Finance of Ontario

The Honourable Jeff Yurek,
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

The Honourable Steve Clark,
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

By e-mail

Dear Ministers,

Re: Bill 229 and Proposed Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

On behalf of the Council of the City of Ottawa, I am writing to express concerns with the proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* contained in Schedule 6 of Bill 229. We are concerned about the potential impacts of changes to Section 14 of the Act, which will require that the members of a conservation authority that are appointed by participating municipalities are municipal Councillors.

The City of Ottawa shares the jurisdiction of three (3) Conservation Authorities: Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and South Nation Conservation, referred to collectively as our "Conservation Partners". Currently Ottawa is responsible for filling a total of 15 seats among the three Conservation Authorities, of which only six are filled by Councillors. The remaining seats are filled by Council-appointed community members. If Bill 229 passes in its current form, Ottawa City Council would have to fill all 15 seats with sitting Councillors. This would greatly increase the administrative burden on Council members, while excluding valuable input from qualified people within the community. We believe that the appointment of municipal representatives should continue to be at Council's discretion and should not be limited to elected Councillors.

The City of Ottawa has previously participated in several consultation sessions during the review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, including the online consultation in March 2020. We encourage the Province to return to this consultative and collaborative approach by withdrawing Schedule 6 from Bill 229 and allowing municipalities that are directly affected by the proposed changes to provide suggestions and feedback in a more meaningful way. At a minimum, we strongly recommend that the changes to



Section 14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* be removed from the Bill, so that municipalities may continue to appoint members as they deem appropriate.

We thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson', written over a large, stylized blue scribble.

Jim Watson

Mayor

City of Ottawa

cc: Steve Kanellakos, City Manager

Stephen Willis, General Manager, Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Development

David White, City Solicitor

Rick O'Connor, City Clerk

Sally McIntyre, General Manager, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Angela Coleman, General Manager, South Nation Conservation