



Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

P O Box 146 Cloyne Ontario K0H 1K0

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent, 7th floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister Phillips,

I am writing on behalf of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association (SDRA) and the more than 200 members who own property on Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes in the Township of Addington Highlands.

The SDRA has concerns regarding the 2020 Ontario Budget (Bill 229) released by the Provincial Government on November 5, 2020, which proposes changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and to the Conservation Authorities' role in land-use planning.

We are strongly opposed to the proposed changes that exist in Schedule 6 of Bill 229.

We are part of the Quinte watershed and have come to appreciate the many benefits our property owners receive due to the efforts of the Quinte Conservation Authority. For over 75 years, Quinte has been working effectively with local municipalities, partner groups, and watershed residents to deliver programs and services that benefit our local communities. If passed, the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act will jeopardize the local decision making process, thus eliminating the necessary watershed-based approach needed to ensure the continued protection of our residents and environment.

We believe that the proposed changes included in Schedule 6 of Bill 229 significantly affect the role Conservation Authorities have in protecting Ontarians. The CAs' role in planning decisions under the Planning Act and the Environmental Assessment Act ensure that developments do not result in changes to the floodplain and natural heritage that would put communities at risk from flooding.

If passed, the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act will jeopardize the local decision making process, thus eliminating the necessary watershed-based approach needed to ensure the continued protection of our residents and environment. Further, the changes risk removing or limiting the watershed science-based approach conservation authorities across Ontario have been using to ensure safe development on or around valuable water sources and sensitive lands.

Our ask is that you please consider the gravity of these proposed changes on the ability of our Conservation Authorities in Ontario to continue protecting our watersheds. The changes proposed in Schedule 6 will reduce or constrain the mandate of Conservation Authorities, and are therefore contradictory to the interests of the people of Ontario who are facing enormous risks and costs as a result of climate change and ongoing biodiversity loss. The roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities are critical in protecting the lands, waters and wildlife which benefit businesses and communities across Ontario, and upon which our health and well-being ultimately depend.

We ask that Schedule 6 be removed in its entirety from Bill 229.

Sincerely,



Joel Arthurs
President, SDRA

Cc:

Minister Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Minister Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

Minister Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Darl Kramp, MPP Hasting-Lennox & Addington

Henry Hogg, Reeve, Township of Addington Highlands

Brad McNevin, Chief Administrative Officer, Quinte Conservation Authority