



November 25, 2020

Hon. Sylvia Jones  
Solicitor General  
George Drew Building, 18th Floor  
25 Grosvenor St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

RE - Bill 229 and the Conservation Authorities

Dear Honourable Sylvia Jones:

Shelburne Town Council passed the following resolution unanimously at its Council meeting held Monday November 23, 2020:

Moved By Councillor Walter Benotto  
Seconded By Councillor Kyle Fegan

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

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

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; and

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



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; and

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 Board should be duly elected; and

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, and 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 our jurisdiction for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value the conservation authorities work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value the conservation authority's work to ensure safe drinking water;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Province of Ontario repeal Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229);
2. THAT the Province continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth;
3. THAT the Province respect the current conservation authority and municipal relationships; and



4. 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.

**CARRIED, Mayor Wade Mills**

This motion was passed unanimously.

Thank You

*J. Willoughby*

Jennifer Willoughby  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
Town of Shelburne

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier  
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Andrea Horwath, Leader, Official Opposition  
Steven Del Duca, Leader, Ontario Liberal Party  
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario  
Sandy Shaw, Critic, Finance and Treasury Board  
Ian Arthur, Critic, Environment  
Peter Tabuns, Critic, Climate Crisis

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