



November 30, 2018



To: Township of North Frontenac Council

Re: Letter from Randy Hillier to Minister of MECP Regarding Conservation Authorities

Dear Members of Council:

Malcolm Ardoch Lakes Landowners' Association Executive recently discussed a letter that Mr. Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston sent to the Minister of Environment regarding the Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities. It is our understanding that his letter requests that conservation authorities be prevented from entering into memorandums of understandings with their municipal partners as they seek to provide programs and services on their behalf. Malcolm Ardoch Lakes Landowners' Association wishes to express our concern about such a withdrawal of service.

Our comments will be mostly applicable to the services provided by Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority; however, members of our Stewardship Committee have been privileged to receive training through workshops offered by the Rideau Valley Conservation staff as well. During the development of our Lake Plan and for the three years of implementation, the staff of MVCA have been invaluable. Their advice, knowledge of environmental legislation, recommended practices, contacts for key speakers and programs, and the provision of materials for our education sessions are some of the ways in which our organization has benefited.

When the Conservation Authorities Act was reviewed and updated in 2017, we do not recall any concerns from the MPP being expressed during the multiple consultation sessions with the public. Nor do we recall concerns being raised by our Township Council. The process seemed to take several years with opportunities to provide input throughout; that would have been the time to express concerns or make suggestions for improvement.

Under the Act, the purpose of a conservation authority is to deliver programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources within the watershed. For their efforts, MALLA would give a "gold star" of achievement to MVCA. A capable staff member has always responded to our requests for information and advice regarding protective measures for Malcolm and Ardoch Lakes. MALLA believes there has been a strong partnership with MVCA as we address critical issues for our lakes- whether it applies to the responsibility to regulate development for land use or strategies to maintain health and sustainability of our natural resources.

If MVCA is prevented from providing the present level of service to the municipality, who will deliver the expert watershed support for the Township AND at what additional cost? Imagine adding consultant fees for each of the roles that MVCA now fulfills.

As you can tell from our comments, MALLA is opposed to the recommendations in the letter from MPP, Randy Hillier.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Fowler, President of MALLA

Brenda Martin, Stewardship Chair

CC: Paul Lehman, General Manager, MVCA