



May 13, 2019

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ferguson Block
11th Floor
77 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 013-5018

Subject: In response to the April 5th, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' posting number 013-5018 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario; 'Modernizing conservation authority operations – Conservation Authorities Act'.

Dear Minister Phillips,

The Township of Augusta has a strong history of close collaboration with South Nation Conservation (SNC) on shared priorities which protect the environment and engage communities while balancing people and nature.

SNC has local knowledge and expertise required to make informed decisions on project proposals. Staff are committed to ensuring that projects proceed successfully while fulfilling their environmental mandate of protecting people, places and property.

SNC provides significant value to the Township of Augusta as well as the local communities we serve through the following core services:

- **Fostering Landowner Stewardship** – plant trees, manage community lands, offer resources, work with partners on important water quality improvement projects.
- **Protecting People and Property** – Map and regulate floodplains and natural hazards, work closely with municipalities, residents and build community to support sustainable development, deliver flood forecasting programs and protect drinking water sources.
- **Providing Natural Spaces and Recreational Opportunities** – own and manage over 20,000 acres of public natural spaces.
- **Making Science-Based Decisions** – collect water, stream, fisheries, forestry and wetland data to support stewardship programs and guide sustainable development.
- **Empowering Communities and Youth** – Partner with schools and communities to deliver on-the-ground stewardship work and environmental education.



Conservation Authorities are one of the only boots-on-the-ground agencies working directly with municipalities, residents, and stakeholders in a timely and meaningful way; with international recognition for their approach to integrated watershed management.


Partnerships with South Nation Conservation have enabled our resilient communities to grow sustainably and come together on shared environmental priorities.

We are committed to supporting SNC's ability to deliver important on-the-ground environmental work for watershed communities on behalf of our municipality.

We encourage the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to consider the value in existing services provided by Conservation Authorities as they protect people and property from natural hazards, while supporting safe and sustainable development.

It is this commitment and hard work that will reap future benefits for our communities as well as the Province of Ontario, today and into the future.

Sincerely,



Doug Malanka, Mayor
Township of Augusta

APPENDIX A

Conservation Authorities Value Added Service Deliveries and Shared Priorities

- Seedling giveaways and reforestation projects.
- Leading the St Lawrence River Hazard LIDAR mapping initiative which will impact a wide variety of stakeholders.
- Taking a leadership role in monitoring and planning to mitigate impacts of severe weather conditions; both flooding (St. Lawrence 2017 and 2019) and drought conditions (2016 and 2018).
- Proactively consulting with municipal governments to help improve the effectiveness of significant waterways and drains, while preserving the environment and habitat.
- Providing educational opportunities at many levels – local government, residents and school children, the Limerick Forests in our county.
- Assisting Prescott and Augusta by performing the recent source water protection study and report, and reporting requirements.
- Governing authority for building permits if property falls within their jurisdiction.
- Governing authority for septic permits if property falls within their jurisdiction.
- Species at risk.