



Municipalité de  
**RUSSELL**  
Township



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 21, 2019

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

**Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 013-5018**

**Subject: In response to the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 Russell 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 our municipality 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,



Pierre Leroux  
Mayor

PL/mr