



May 14, 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 Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association (SDG OWA) has a strong history of close collaboration with South Nation Conservation (SNC) to promote responsible and sustainable forest management practices that supplement SNC's environmental mandate.

This includes partnering with SNC to:

- Promote the environmental, economic and social benefits of local forests;
- Promote forest rebate services for local woodlot owners through the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program and the Alternative Land Use Services Program;
- Support the Conservation Authority's free Woodlot Advisory Service for local landowners;
- Sponsor local wood and forest related events;
- Host forestry related workshops for association members and the general public.

SNC has and continues to provide significant value to the local communities it serves 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.





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- **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.

SNC's working relationship with the SDG OWA is a testament to their boots-on-the-ground approach to working directly with local partners, stakeholders and residents in a meaningful way.

Without support from SNC, partners such as the SDG OWA could be faced with difficulties in delivering cost-effective community services for the people.

SNC staff have demonstrated the ability, local knowledge and expertise required to partner on projects that promote the local environment, forests and raise awareness of protecting people and property from natural hazards.

We are committed to supporting SNC's ability to deliver important on-the-ground services to local partners that connect people to nature.

We encourage the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to consider the value in the services provided by Conservation Authorities that supplement their core mandate of protecting people and property from natural hazards.

Sincerely,

Elaine Kennedy
President

Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Chapter
Ontario Woodlot Association