



February 1, 2023

The Hon, Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Finance, Deputy Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland,

On behalf of the Town of East Gwillimbury Council, included below is a resolution passed at our meeting held on January 24, 2023. This resolution speaks to the importance of funding support for the Freshwater Action Plan Fund and we urge the federal government to honour their commitment to provide this funding which will ensure continued initiatives that will benefit the health and protection of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

Subject: Federal Funding Commitment for Lake Simcoe

Moved by: Councillor Crone

Seconded by: Councillor Carruthers

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe is one of Ontario's largest watersheds, home to First Nations since time immemorial, and situated in the growing Greater Toronto Area communities of York Region, Durham Region, Simcoe County, and the cities of Barrie and Orillia;

WHEREAS the watershed faces threats due to eutrophication, largely from phosphorus runoff and other contaminants into the lake and its tributaries;

WHEREAS the lake is a significant source of drinking water, as well as being integral for local recreation, tourism, agriculture and other key economic drivers;

WHEREAS the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is being stripped of regulatory oversight and revenue sources by the Ontario government;

AND WHEREAS the 2022 federal budget included a new "Freshwater Action Fund" with a one-year commitment of \$19.6 million to help watersheds across the country, including Lake Simcoe, but any details and next steps are still to be announced and time is of the essence,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of East Gwillimbury supports federal funding for Lake Simcoe that represents a significant percentage of the overall Freshwater Action Plan Fund, with funding and details beginning in 2023; and

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THAT the Town of East Gwillimbury asks that such federal funding be used to undertake:

- Shoreline mitigation and restoration, including in the tributaries of the Holland River, Maskinonge River and Black River, and the Holland Marsh,
- Planting of 250,000 trees in the watershed,
- Projects to ameliorate contaminated sites in the watershed,
- Upgrades to help retrofit and improve the environmental efficiency of municipal infrastructure such as wastewater and stormwater facilities,
- Purchasing and conservation of more natural heritage sites such as forests and wetlands under the auspices of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA); and

THAT a copy of this resolution, along with a letter from the Mayor, be sent to the federal Minister of Finance; the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change; the President of the Treasury Board; the Members of Parliament for York—Simcoe, Newmarket—Aurora, Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte, Barrie—Innisfil, Simcoe North, Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock, and Durham and to all Lake Simcoe region municipalities and the LSRCA, with for their endorsement.

Sincerely,



Mayor Virginia Hackson

Copy to:

The Hon. Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Mona Fortier
President of the Treasury Board

MP Scot Davidson, York Simcoe
MP Tony Van Bynen, Newmarket-Aurora
MP Doug Shipley, Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte
MP John Brassard, Barrie - Innisfil
MP Adam Chambers, Simcoe – North
MP Jamie Schmale, Haliburton – Kawartha Lakes – Brock
MP Erin O’Toole, Durham

Mr. Rob Baldwin
CAO, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

*Lake Simcoe Watershed Municipalities
Attention Municipal Clerk:*

City of Barrie
City of Kawartha Lakes
Township of Brock
Township of Scugog
Township of Uxbridge
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Town of Innisfil
Town of New Tecumseth
Township of Oro-Medonte
Township of Ramara
Town of Aurora
Town of Georgina
Town of Newmarket
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville