

March 4, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Hon. Chrystia Freeland PC MP
Ministry of Finance
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Dear Deputy Prime Minister:

I am writing to you today to make a pre-budget submission in accordance with a motion presented by my colleague Councillor Jonathan Scott and passed unanimously by our Town Council asking that the federal government fulfil bipartisan commitments towards creating a Lake Simcoe Restoration Fund in the upcoming federal budget.

The motion is enclosed for your reference.

As you know, both local Liberal and Conservative MPs ran on the promise of restoring and exceeding funding that used to exist to help protect Lake Simcoe under the auspices of the Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund. You yourself made such a commitment of a \$40-million fund during the 2019 election in Barrie. The commitment to a billion-dollar Freshwater Action Fund, which would include funding for Lake Simcoe, is in the Hon. Steven Guibeault's mandate letter as Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

We ask that funding greater than previous commitments be invested to protect the Lake Simcoe watershed in this year's budget. Such funding should be over and above previous commitments given that funding for the Lake has been in hiatus since the previous fund expired in 2017, and due to inflationary pressures. As the motion outlines, such funding could be used for land conservation, shoreline restoration, cleaning up contaminated sites, reducing discharges from existing wastewater treatment plants, and other tangible means to restore the health of the watershed.

Our region, and Bradford West Gwillimbury in particular, is growing, and so we need to take environmental mitigation and restoration efforts seriously, alongside a federal partner.

I understand this motion has also passed in the Town of Georgina, and is being considered by other municipalities across our region, demonstrating, I believe, the great unity in our area for federal action to protect Lake Simcoe.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Keffer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Keffer
Mayor
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

cc. Hon. Steven Guibeault PC MP
Hon. Mona Fortier PC MP
Tony Van Bynen MP
Scot Davidson MP
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Lake Simcoe Region Mayors and Councils

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VIA EMAIL

Hon. Chrystia Freeland PC MP
Ministry of Finance
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Dear Hon. Chrystia Freeland,

Re: Federal Support for Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund

At its Regular Meeting of Council held on March 1, 2022, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council approved the following resolution regarding federal funding for the Lake Simcoe Cleanup Fund.

Resolution 2022-12 Scott/Ferragine

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

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

AND 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;

AND WHEREAS the previous federal government funded a "Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund" of \$65 million over 10 years between 2007-2017, but that fund has not been renewed;

AND WHEREAS during the 2019 federal election, the Hon. Chrystia Freeland committed \$40 million over 5 years towards Lake Simcoe;

AND WHEREAS during the 2021 federal election, the Liberal Party of Canada committed to "Implement a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including an historic investment of \$1 billion over 10 years. This plan will provide essential funding to protect and restore large lakes and river systems, starting with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System, Lake Simcoe...";

AND WHEREAS the Conservative Party of Canada also committed to re-funding the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund in the 2019 and 2021 general elections with an investment of \$30 million over five years;

Further to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change's mandate letter, which directs the Minister to "...establish a Canada Water Agency and implement a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including a historic investment to provide funding to protect and restore large lakes and river systems, starting with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System, Lake Simcoe..."

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury:

- 1. Supports federal funding for a Lake Simcoe Restoration Fund that represents a significant percentage of the overall Freshwater Action Plan Fund, with funding in excess of previous commitments, beginning in the 2022 budget;*
- 2. Asks that such funding be used to undertake:*
 - a. Shoreline mitigation and restoration, including in the tributaries of the Holland River, Maskinonge River and Black River, and the Holland Marsh,*
 - b. Projects to ameliorate contaminated sites in the watershed,*
 - c. Upgrades to help retrofit municipal infrastructure such as wastewater and stormwater facilities to decrease total current discharges from existing facilities,*
 - d. Planting of 250,000 trees in the watershed, and purchasing and conservation of more forests and wetlands under the auspices of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), to make significant progress towards the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan goal of 40% of the watershed area being protected natural land; and*
- 3. 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 a request for their endorsement.*

CARRIED.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tara Reynolds".

Tara Reynolds
Deputy Clerk, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
(905) 775-5366 Ext 1104
treynolds@townofbwg.com

CC: Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Hon. Mona Fortier, President of the Treasury Board
Scot Davidson, MP York-Simcoe
Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket—Aurora
Doug Shipley, MP Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte
John Brassard, MP Barrie—Innisfil
Adam Chambers, MP Simcoe North
Jamie Schmale, MP Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock
Hon. Erin O'Toole, MP Durham
Lake Simcoe Region Municipalities
LSRCA