

December 18th, 2020

Jana Nethercott, Clerk
Municipality of West Elgin
22413 Hoskins Line
Rodney, Ontario N0L 1C0

Re: Board Resolution Following Passing of Bill 229 and Schedule 6

To The Mayor and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) Board of Directors, I want to express my appreciation for your support of conservation over the last few weeks. The LTVCA is proud to serve and support our watershed community, and is inspired by the way all 10 of our member municipalities rallied around our concerns regarding Bill 229.

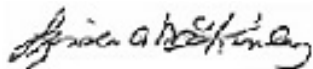
As you are aware, Bill 229 passed its third reading last week, and has since received Royal Assent. There is no doubt that this was disappointing, however, it has further strengthened our resolve to champion environmental conservation and to work with the province and our municipal partners.

Thanks in large part to the support of community members across Ontario, alongside our local mayors and councils, partner agencies, and the agriculture community, Conservation Authorities were able to have constructive and meaningful conversations with the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks. This led to some positive amendments regarding planning, enforcement, governance, and the ability to continue the responsible management of our conservation areas. However, we remain disappointed with some of the changes that will create red tape and delays in our planning and permitting roles.

We now move forward to the next phase, to ensure that regulations brought forward to enact this Bill consider progressive, local, watershed management and local decision making. Together with the province, we will continue to advocate for our communities and strive for workable solutions under this new Bill.

I have included a motion passed by the LTVCA Board of Directors on December 10, 2020 addressing moving forward. Thank you again for your continued support of our Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

Sincerely,



Linda McKinlay,
Chair, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Resolution of LTVCA Board of Directors upon passing of Bill 229

WHEREAS the Province in third reading has passed Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6

WHEREAS all municipalities of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority have passed resolutions expressing major concerns and have requested reconsideration of amendments made to the Conservation Authorities Act under Schedule 6 of Bill 229

WHEREAS the Legislation as amended still introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authorities' role in regulating development, the permit and appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications

WHEREAS the Legislation as amended still allow the Minister to make decisions without CA watershed data and expertise

WHEREAS the Legislation as amended still impacts the important and historic role that conservation authorities play in watershed management

WHEREAS the LTVCA board believes that changes to the Conservation Authorities Act will create more red tape and costs for conservation authorities' member municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- THAT the LTVCA Board of Directors continues to request that the Province of Ontario repeal Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229)
- THAT the LTVCA Board of Directors directs staff to work with the Province to find workable solutions through the development of regulations with an aim to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth
- THAT in the development of regulations the Province respect the current conservation authority/municipal relationships and the important role conservation authorities play in watershed management
- AND THAT the Province provide conservation authorities the financial resources needed to address the significant requirements and administrative burden resulting from passage of Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act including Schedule 6 as amended.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all member municipalities, Conservation Ontario, the Premier, Minister Natural Resources and Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.