



Severn Sound Environmental Association

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November 19, 2018

Hon. Rod Phillips
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ferguson Block 11th Floor
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Phillips,

RE: Source Protection Critical to the Health of the People of Ontario.

Thank you for your Government's commitment in the **2018 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review** to "...keeping the Province's air, land and water clean for future generations". We share that commitment here in Severn Sound north Simcoe County.

As you know, a basic requirement for life is healthy drinking water. Eighteen years after the Walkerton tragedy, Ontario has been blessed with safer drinking water for municipal residents. However, more work remains to be done. Additional threats to drinking water remain on the landscape and with the pace of development and rate of turnover in landownership, ongoing vigilance is required to ensure that new threats aren't inadvertently created.

Protecting drinking water is a team effort, a collaboration between Source Protection Authorities, municipalities and communities, the province, businesses and landowners. The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is one of two non-Conservation Authorities who have been given the distinct honour of being a Source Protection Authority (SPA). Together with the two other SPAs in the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region (www.ourwatershed.ca) we have been able to address over 2000 threats to municipal drinking water. These threats, to date, have been addressed with minimal economic burden on Ontario families and businesses. Progress is being made in implementing the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan across the Region as required by the Ontario *Clean Water Act* and its regulations. Without continued support for the Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) program this might not be the case moving forward.

The continuation of the Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) program is critical and needs your support. The DWSP program is based on the tenets of good science, collaborative decision making, and local implementation. Source Protection Staff and the Source Protection Committee need to continue to support and advise their municipal

colleagues, landowners, and industry groups in this important work, and to ensure that Source Protection Plans remain relevant, and remain based on the best available science.

At this time, we (Source Protection Regions) have not yet received direction on the program funding. Minister, we respectfully urge you to ensure funding for this DWSP program in Ontario is, at a minimum, maintained to ensure the people of Ontario continue to be able to trust that they have access to safe municipal drinking water. We believe that resourcing the Ontario DWSP program will highlight your government's commitment in the **2018 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review** to "...ensure Ontario will continue to be a leader in protecting the environment, while at the same time, respecting and protecting taxpayers".

Maintaining confidence in the safety of our drinking water requires maintaining the multi-barrier approach, of which the DWSP program is the very important first step. Partnering for delivery is cost effective, efficient and optimizes the opportunity for success.

Thank you for your consideration and we welcome the opportunity to discuss further as your convenience.

Yours Truly,



Steffen Walma, Chair of the Board
Severn Sound Environmental Association



Julie Cayley, Executive Director
Severn Sound Environmental Association

Cc. Doug Downey, MPP Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte
Jill Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North
Andrea Khanjin – MPP Barrie – Innisfil, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Heather Malcolmson - Director (Acting), Source Protection Programs Branch, MOECP
Lynn Dolin, Chair, South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee