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May 13th, 2019

Sent via Email

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable John Yakabuski
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Yakabuski:

I am writing on behalf of the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) to request that the MLA be a party to the just announced "internal task force" that will consult with municipal partners and other stakeholders in impacted areas on ways to improve the province's resilience to flooding. You should be aware that the MLA has had ongoing discussions regarding flooding problems in Muskoka with MNR staff since 2016.

Representing 2,300 waterfront property owners and over 5,000 active cottagers in Muskoka, the MLA is a 125-year-old community-run organization whose mission has been the responsible use, enjoyment, and conservation of the remarkable and unique Muskoka environment.

As you may be aware, our community has been repeatedly devastated by spring floods, most recently in 2013, 2016 and 2019. Cumulative property damage caused by these three flooding events is now measured in the hundreds of millions of dollars and in many cases is non-insured or uninsurable.

We believe that opportunities exist to improve the flooding situation in Muskoka – and the Muskoka River Water Management Plan, especially in light of the impact of Climate Change on our weather and the increased potential for repeated serious flood and damage risk. We are committed to ensure the beauty and natural wonder of Muskoka is preserved and protected for the next generation.

The Mayor of the Township of Muskoka Lakes, Phil Harding, who is also a MLA member and past Director, recently met with Premier Ford in Muskoka and briefed him on the severity of the flooding.

We would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and other members of the "internal task force" to determine how the MLA can assist in moving an update to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.



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Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Lawton Osler
President, Muskoka Lakes Association
(On behalf of the MLA Water Level Task Force)

cc Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario - doug.ford@pc.ola.org
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