

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416-314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416.314.6790

July 17, 2020

Mr. Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Regional Municipality of York
Email: Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca

Dear Chairman Emmerson,

I am writing to express my ongoing commitment to finalizing work that is ongoing between my ministry and your office to address wastewater capacity needs in York Region. I appreciate the urgency in completing this work and the fact that there is an expressed need to have a solution in place for 2026. I'm committed to doing what we can to meet this timeline.

I note your Council's interest in a legislative approach similar to Bill 171, *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020*. This approach has merit. In order to ensure our government can facilitate the best possible option, I have instructed my staff to re-examine all options originally considered and proposed for this project. I want to assure you my ministry and I are working quickly to find the best solution that meets the needs of York Region, while maintaining strong environmental protections. This may result in a return to the southern route connecting with the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant.

Staff from my ministry as well as from the Ministry of Transportation have had some productive conversations on a potential southern route as an alternative. It is also understood that to enable and expedite this alternative, legislation may be necessary as the normal process may take too long for an in-service date of 2026.

With respect to any decision on the Upper York Sewage Solution environmental assessment, I can advise you that my ministry received comments from the Chippewas of Georgina Island at the end of June and are currently reviewing these comments. As such, a final decision on this environmental assessment has not yet been made.

I appreciate your ongoing patience and collaboration as we work through discussions on the southern solution. Between now and Fall, my ministry staff and your staff will need to establish an agreeable critical path as well as what regulatory and legislative steps will be needed to facilitate with an eye to the 2026 timeline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Yurek".

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks