

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2021-2849

June 2, 2021

John Henry
Chair and CEO
Regional Municipality of Durham
john.henry@durham.ca

Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and CEO
Regional Municipality of York
wayne.emmerson@york.ca

Dear Chair Emmerson and Chair Henry:

I am writing in response to the recent letters from York Region and Durham Region, each dated May 21, 2021, concerning the wastewater servicing needs of both your Regions.

I want to start by thanking you for making your staff available to participate in the discussions, facilitated by Mike Murray, that took place over several months earlier this year. Those discussions helped us to better understand both Regions' unique perspectives.

It has become clear that while York Region has already undertaken a substantial amount of analysis of potential wastewater service options, any solution is significantly complex and requires further examination. Additional information from technical and other experts is needed to better understand the environmental, social and financial implications of any wastewater servicing solution for York Region. We also recognize the need to engage with potentially affected First Nation communities. However, we also understand the need for a clear path forward and timely resolution of this issue.

I want to inform you that as a next step, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will be establishing an Expert Advisory Panel. The Panel will provide information and advice to our government concerning all of the options to provide additional wastewater capacity to accommodate anticipated future growth in both Regions. It will bring together experts in a variety of areas including land use planning and wastewater infrastructure and will consult with key stakeholders and engage with potentially impacted First Nations.

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My colleague, Minister Jeff Yurek, will be leading this next step and he will be establishing the Expert Advisory Panel within the next few months. I know that Minister Yurek will continue to engage you and your staff as this initiative moves forward.

Thank you again, for the time and effort you have taken to date to work with us. We remain committed to working collaboratively with York and Durham Regions to help find a responsible permanent solution that will address local concerns, support sustainable growth and development and safeguard the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Clark
Minister

c. The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks