



March 26, 2021

The Honourable Jeff Yurek
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
2nd Floor, Macdonald Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Yurek:

**RE: Regional Submission to the Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks for the Lake Simcoe Protection
Plan 10-Year Review**

**Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting #019-2833
Launching the Minister's 10 Year Review of the Lake
Simcoe Protection Plan, Our File: D04**

Council of the Region of Durham at its meeting held on March 24, 2021,
adopted the following recommendations of the Committee of the Whole:

- A) That Report #2021-COW-3 be endorsed and submitted to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks as Durham Region's response to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan 10-Year Review;
- B) That the province affirm, revise and update the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan as necessary to:
 - i) Continue to employ an ecosystems approach and subwatershed approach to the LSPP because these principles remain important to understand cumulative impacts on the watershed while focusing specific actions to the unique needs and priorities of different areas of the watershed;
 - ii) Complete systematic tracking and progress reporting of each of the targets of the LSPP and identify whether changes have been observed on a watershed/subwatershed level;
 - iii) Consider assigning timelines and performance measures to the targets in the LSPP;
 - iv) Produce a supplemental report that provides an update on the implementation of the Strategic Actions of the LSPP;

The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

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Services

- v) Update the LSPP to reflect the changing health of the watershed based on the changing context of the watershed and ongoing advances in watershed science, particularly as they relate to the impacts of climate change;
- vi) Update the stormwater management policies of the LSPP to reflect the considerable research and advancements in industry knowledge of Low Impact Development;
- vii) Update the LSPP to consider and be consistent with the 2017 updates to Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the 2019 update to the Growth Plan and the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan;
- viii) Provide support to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to analyze the results of the Phosphorus Offsetting Policy to determine how well the remediation actions are working and how long the offset lasts;
- ix) Consider the following specific to private sewage systems:
 - a. Oversee the implementation, monitoring and completion of all mandatory maintenance inspections;
 - b. Define program parameters, develop an inspection template and extend cost covering and supplements to municipalities to ensure each municipality is acting consistently;
 - c. Fully fund or subsidize the cost of mandatory maintenance inspections to ensure timely completion and increased public support for the program, especially among those with properties not only on Lake Simcoe, but on its tributaries;
 - d. Facilitate grants, subsidies or loans for private homeowners to remediate sewage systems proactively; and
 - e. Improve messaging and outreach to homeowners to increase understanding of the program;
- x) Focus the next phase of LSPP implementation on more significant sources of phosphorus such as, stormwater and agricultural/rural runoff and invasive species, and that the existing phosphorous loading caps for water pollution control plants be maintained;

- xi) Implement any new initiatives and measures in a phased approach, allowing for flexibility given the broad range of local partners and available resources;
 - xii) Establish a LSPP implementation committee that would serve to increase collaboration and communication among the various stakeholders;
 - xiii) Produce supplemental material to the Minister's 10-Year Report that is directed at property owners, including the development of a dedicated website to report on the health of Lake Simcoe that uses plain language and is accessible to residents;
 - xiv) Develop an education and outreach campaign for individuals and businesses within the Lake Simcoe watershed to foster a broader understanding of Lake health, key areas of concern and the impacts of LSPP policies and programs;
 - xv) Provide presentations to stakeholders to facilitate a more collaborative approach toward implementing the LSPP;
 - xvi) Support enforcement efforts related to the activities of private residents, agriculture/businesses and recreational enthusiasts;
 - xvii) Contribute financially to the development and coordination of local/Regional climate change data to ensure consistency in data, objectives and performance measures;
 - xviii) Develop a comprehensive financing strategy for the next decade of implementation of the LSPP that is consistent with the principles of the existing financing strategy;
 - xix) Re-institute funding for land stewardship programs and retrofits to stormwater management systems;
 - xx) Recognize that the current economic challenges related to COVID-19 bring some risk that future progress in achieving LSPP targets and objectives may be set back; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2021-COW-3 of the Commissioners of Planning & Economic Development and Works be forwarded to the Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge; Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities; Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority; Durham Environmental Advisory Committee; Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee; and Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change.

Ralph Walton

Ralph Walton,
Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

RW/ct

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