



“YOUR VOICE MAKES OUR VOICE STRONGER”

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Hon. Paul Calandra, MPP Markham-Stouffville

Logan Kanapathi, MPP Markham-Thornhill

Gila Martow, MPP Thornhill

Billy Pang, MPP Markham-Unionville

Daisy Wai, MPP Richmond Hill

November 27, 2019

Dear MPPs representing Markham:

Remove or Amend Schedule 6 (Conservation Authorities Act) from Bill 229 (Omnibus Budget Bill)

As you know, the URA is very active in our community. We inform and educate our residents and advocate for items to improve our community. One of our main roles is to monitor new developments in our area and comment and advise as necessary.

We have found that the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)’s review of new developments from a natural heritage, stormwater and watershed perspective to be very helpful. Back in May, 2019, we sent a letter to Minister Clark expressing our concerns with Bill 108, which proposed to reduce the scope of core (mandatory) programs provided by the CAs. As we understand it, that Bill was passed with no change to the CAs piece, but the sections relating to the CAs have not yet been proclaimed, pending development of regulations establishing standards and requirements for mandatory and non-mandatory programs .

We are now very concerned about Schedule 6 in Bill 229, tabled November 5, 2020, which makes further changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. These will further hinder or remove the roles of the CAs. Specifically, we have problems with:

- The proposed ability of the Minister to issue permits and make decisions overriding a CA decision. We feel this can lead to decisions being made without benefit of watershed data and expertise. A serious risk is that one-off permits will be issued outside the context of a local flood plane management program.
- The need for each municipality to negotiate Memoranda Of Understandings with the CAs on the non-mandatory programs, which will potentially result in fragmented management of water sheds.
- The inability of the CAs to be a party at LPAT hearings, potentially leaving the City without expert support.

We note that there has been a groundswell of opposition to Schedule 6, including many non-government organizations, the Greenbelt Council and ordinary citizens. We also note that both the City of Markham and York Region have passed motions asking the Province to remove or amend Schedule 6.

We likewise urge the Government to remove or amend Schedule 6.

We will be happy to discuss this matter further with you.

Yours truly,

Michael Gannon

Michael Gannon, President

Peter Miasek

Peter Miasek, Director

cc. Mayor and Council, City of Markham