

Minister Phillips
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ferguson Block
11th Floor
77 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5



Rescue Lake Simcoe Charitable Foundation
120 Primeau Dr.
Aurora, ON L4G 6Z4

March 27, 2019

Dear Minister Phillips,

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition hosted an event at the Link in Sutton, Georgina, called “Protect Our Water, Protect Our Plan,” which was attended by about 80 residents from around the lake. Pictures are here:

<https://www.facebook.com/RescueLakeSimcoeCoalition/>.

At the event we launched our Protect Our Plan campaign, which is aimed at keeping the public informed about ways to be involved in the Review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. Naturally we also want excellent outcomes for the lake, from the Review. Below I have attached our priorities for the Review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. If you would like any more detail, please let me know and I will send you the full document.

I have worked on Lake Simcoe since 2001, and the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition has been in operation since 2003. Starting in 2005, we advocated for the Greenbelt to cover the entire Lake Simcoe watershed to protect the lake’s water quality. When that did not work, we started campaigning for what became the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* and Plan. We are very proud of this achievement and the outcomes, and we want the Act and Plan to result in a healthier lake.

I would very much like to know what the Province’s plans are for the Review. I see this as an opportunity to better educate and engage the public in a number of areas such as: reducing the environmental impact of their recreational, household and yard activities on the lake; and making connections between the public, industry, businesses, and the environmental organizations that work on the lake. From an information gathering perspective, it would be interesting to find out what people know, or think they know, about reducing their impacts on

water quality. I would be delighted to assist in any way in shaping the public consultation component of your plan for the Review.

Our request to the MoECP and the Lake Simcoe caucus is that, as soon as possible, the MoECP release the results of the Lake Simcoe 10 year comprehensive monitoring report, so that everyone has current facts on which to base their management decisions moving forward; and that the Province start consulting with the Lake Simcoe Science Committee and Coordinating Committees immediately. Some members have not ever attended a full in-person meeting. They should get an opportunity to review the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, and hear from the MoECP Lake Simcoe team staff how the policies are working, or not. These committees can provide you with a wealth of information, but they will need months to prepare and likely 2 – 3 full day meetings to provide you with the advice I believe they are capable of delivering.

Finally, I note that the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* says that the Province must review the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan every 10 years, and in so doing, must consult with Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee and Science Committee, municipalities in the watershed, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and public bodies that could be affected. Members of the public must also be given an opportunity to participate in the review. I urge you to consider allowing for meaningful public input to help all who are interested participate in saving our lake.

I would very much like to meet with you to discuss our priorities for the Review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, and to talk about how the consultation might roll out. Please be in touch to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Claire Malcolmson

Executive Director

Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

About Us: The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition is a lake-wide member-based organization that provides leadership and inspires people to take action to protect Lake Simcoe. www.rescuelakesimcoe.org

CC: Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks MPP Phillips, and Lake Simcoe watershed MPPS: MPP Khanjin, MPP Downey, MPP Mulroney, MPP Dunlop, MPP Scott, MPP Elliot, MPP Bethlenfalvyco, MPP Park, MPP Wilson, MPP Calandra

Protect Our Plan:

Priorities for the Review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan



March 23, 2019

Preamble:

Lake Simcoe has benefited from \$50 million invested over the past ten years, and the best watershed-based legislation in Canada. And yet, we are not making sufficient progress towards the targets of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP). The priorities below represent what is urgently needed for the LSPP to achieve its goals.

PRIORITIES FOR THE REVIEW OF THE LAKE SIMCOE PROTECTION PLAN

- 1) Develop sector-specific interim targets to achieve the 44 tonnes per year phosphorus loading target of the LSPP. Measure, monitor and adapt through an improved Phosphorus Reduction Strategy;
- 2) Protect 40% of the watershed's greenspace, using a variety of tools, to achieve the high-quality natural cover target of the LSPP;
- 3) Add the Lake Simcoe Climate Change Adaptation Strategy policies to the LSPP in order to reduce phosphorus loads, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and increase natural cover;

- 4) Maintain nutrient load caps on Sewage Treatment Plants;
- 5) Provide a minimum of \$10 million for a reboot of the Phosphorus Reduction Strategy, and for implementation of high priority projects;
- 6) Use a cost-benefit approach to prioritizing phosphorus reduction actions to undertake, with strict criteria for achieving multiple benefits;
- 7) Strengthen stormwater and development policies to bring down sedimentation and phosphorus loads;
- 8) Promote partnership with First Nations in implementing the LSPP by funding a position under the direction of Lake Simcoe's First Nations, to identify LSPP policies that require more thorough First Nations involvement, input, and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledge;
- 9) Get the public and businesses on board through targeted funding for collaborative, locally-driven stewardship activities;
- 10) Continue to work on bringing down salt levels;
- 11) Update the roles of the Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee and Lake Simcoe Science Committee to make the committees more effective.