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Briefing Note:

Suggested Conditions for a Legitimate Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Review & Scoping Recommendations

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The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition represents twenty-six member groups around Lake Simcoe that share a concern for the lake's health, and a desire to improve its future. We have been campaigning for 18 months anticipating that the 2019 statutory Review of the LSPP would occur in 2019. We are disappointed that it did not, but are eager to continue conversations about what is needed to make Lake Simcoe healthy.

Our mandate is clear: we want the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) strengthened with strong implementation and monitoring plans. It is not the time to add stress to the lake by caving to pressure from self-interested parties. Doing so would lead the lake's health to suffer irreparably.

Now that COVID 19 has changed the shape of our lives, our activities, and our communities, we are concerned that if the LSPP review were to take place too soon, the public would not have an adequate opportunity to provide the feedback satisfactorily. We are providing two options to the government in order to do right by the lake and the LSPP: full review meeting certain criteria **before** commencement or administrative review.

The following conditions need to be in place for a full review to be legitimate:

1. If the Lake Simcoe Science Committee endorses the release of a current Lake Simcoe Monitoring Report, which provides adequate information upon which to make adaptive management decisions (ie. tracks progress towards targets), we suggest that the Review can start three months later. This gives analysts time to evaluate progress and make thoughtful recommendations.
2. The Lake Simcoe Science and Coordinating committees need three days of meetings, with scientists, to get up to speed and have their questions answered, to provide their feedback to the Province on the Scope of the Review.

3. Environmental Bill of Rights and the Environmental Registry of Ontario must be up and running; The Statement of Environmental Values must be considered by decision-makers;
4. Social distancing measures must have eased such that people would attend open houses.
5. There must be First Nations representation on the Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee and the Lake Simcoe Science Committee.

An Administrative Review could be done as an alternative:

1. Administrative Review
 - Do an administrative review instead of opening the details of the Plan;
 - Do not touch targets;
 - Do not permit additional sewage treatment plants (and this includes UYSS);
 - Focus instead on action and implementation.
 - Phosphorus Reduction Strategy (PRS): One of the biggest problems is that the Phosphorus Reduction Strategy is toothless, has no timelines, and never reached the target Phosphorus Load target. Putting energy into developing an implementable PRS with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority would be extremely useful.
 - Create a green jobs economic recovery program at Lake Simcoe that is designed to achieve ecological targets of the LSPP. Financially support professional ecological stewardship activities and leadership, and community and volunteer involvement, that make progress towards the LSPP's ecological targets. This has the advantage of leveraging the Federal commitment to reinstating the Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund with a focus in line with their objectives on stewardship, addressing Climate Change stressors, and natural heritage protection and / or restoration.
 - Focus the Review on targets that are not being achieved.
 - Strengthen the policies that have not delivered measurable progress towards achieving targets of the LSPP.
 - Top concerns:
 - 40% high quality natural cover target, achieving and protecting
 - No loss of wetlands
 - Phosphorus loading
 - Shoreline naturalization
 - Riparian naturalization