

March 17, 2022

Sent via email: [chrystia.freeland@fin.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@fin.gc.ca)

Hon. Chrystia Freeland PC MP  
Ministry of Finance  
90 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Dear Hon. Chrystia Freeland:

**Re: Federal Support for Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund**

For your information and records, at its electronic meeting held on March 8, 2022 the Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury enacted as follows:

*WHEREAS Lake Simcoe is one of Ontario's largest watersheds, home to First Nations since time immemorial, and situated in the growing communities of Simcoe County, York Region, Durham Region, and the cities of Barrie and Orillia;*

*WHEREAS the watershed faces threats due to eutrophication, largely from phosphorus runoff and other contaminants into the lake and its tributaries;*

*WHEREAS the lake is a significant source of drinking water, as well as being integral for local recreation, tourism, agriculture and other key economic drivers;*

*WHEREAS the previous federal government funded a "Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund" of \$65 million over 10 years between 2007-2017, but that fund has not been renewed;*

*WHEREAS during the 2019 federal election, the Hon. Chrystia Freeland committed \$40 million over 5 years towards Lake Simcoe;*

*WHEREAS during the 2021 federal election, the Liberal Party of Canada committed to "Implement a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including an historic investment of \$1 billion over 10 years. This plan will provide essential funding to protect and restore large lakes and river systems, starting with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System, Lake Simcoe";*

*WHEREAS the Conservative Party of Canada also committed to re-funding the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund in the 2019 and 2021 general elections with an investment of \$30 million over five years;*

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*AND WHEREAS further to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change's mandate letter, which directs the Minister to "establish a Canada Water Agency and implement a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including a historic investment to provide funding to protect and restore large lakes and river systems, starting with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System, Lake Simcoe"*

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Town of East Gwillimbury supports the federal funding for a Lake Simcoe Restoration Fund that represents a significant percentage of the overall Freshwater Action Plan Fund, with funding in excess of previous commitments, beginning in the 2022 budget; and*

*THAT Council respectfully requests that such funding be used to undertake:*

- *Shoreline mitigation and restoration, including in the tributaries of the Holland River, Maskinonge River and Black River, and the Holland Marsh,*
- *Projects to ameliorate contaminated sites in the watershed,*
- *Upgrades to help retrofit municipal infrastructure such as wastewater and stormwater facilities to decrease total current discharges from existing facilities,*
- *Planting of 250,000 trees in the watershed, the conservation of more forests and wetlands under the auspices of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), to make significant progress towards the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan goal of 40% of the watershed area being protected natural land; and*

*THAT a copy of this resolution, along with a letter from the Mayor, be sent to the federal Minister of Finance; the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change; the President of the Treasury Board; the Members of Parliament for York—Simcoe, Newmarket—Aurora, Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte, Barrie—Innisfil, Simcoe North, Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock, and Durham; and to all Lake Simcoe-region municipalities and the LSRCA, with a request for their endorsement.*

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact the undersigned.

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Yours truly,



Tara Lajevardi, Hon. B.A.  
Municipal Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

CC: Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change  
Hon. Mona Fortier, President of the Treasury Board  
Scot Davidson, MP York-Simcoe  
Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket—Aurora  
Doug Shipley, MP Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte  
John Brassard, MP Barrie—Innisfil  
Adam Chambers, MP Simcoe North  
Jamie Schmale, MP Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock  
Hon. Erin O'Toole, MP Durham  
Lake Simcoe Region Municipalities  
Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA)

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