

Honourable Kathryn McGarry
Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear Minister McGarry:

Re: Support for National Disaster Mitigation Program Floodplain Mapping Project (Muskoka)

For the last 2 years, the Muskoka Lakes Association has been aligned with the District of Muskoka to address spring flooding that has resulted in significant damages across the Muskoka Lakes region. Our collective efforts to encourage the Province to open the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP) have as yet not been successful. One of the major components of any water management plan is periodic updating of the hydrology for the watershed to incorporate up-to-date data and conditions. It is also important to consider future conditions, particularly now in relation to well documented climate change challenges in the Muskoka region and throughout Ontario.

The District has recently been awarded \$450,000 toward floodplain mapping in the Muskoka area from the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP). Matching funds must be obtained by the District. While the MLA is willing to financially support the project, we cannot make more than a token contribution. **Given that the province has responsibility for hazard management in the Muskoka area, we believe that the province should contribute the matching funds for this project and are writing to you in support of the District of Muskoka in that regard.**

Climate change is happening (and is well documented and acknowledged by the MNRF) and our tools need to be up to date to ensure that the Muskoka Watershed is managed the best way possible – which can only happen with refreshed data and consideration of Climate Change. ***We hope the Province will take this opportunity to use the District of Muskoka Floodplain Mapping Project as a pilot to incorporate climate change into the guidance documents for floodplain mapping in the Province..***

We appreciate that Watershed Management is a serious issue in many parts of the Province, and that MNRF must balance priorities. However, we perceive this to be a unique situation, with compelling widespread issues that could perhaps be mitigated with Ontario's financial commitment to Muskoka and the floodplain mapping project.

Your feedback and more importantly, your support, will be appreciated.

Yours Very Sincerely,

Robert Ensor,
President, Muskoka Lakes Association

CC-

John Klinck, Chair, District of Muskoka

Don Furniss, Mayor, Township of Muskoka Lakes

Bruce Gibbon, Mayor, Seguin Township

Graydon Smith, Mayor, Town of Bracebridge

Paisley Donaldson, Mayor, Town of Gravenhurst

Scott Aitchison, Mayor, Town of Huntsville

Robert Young, Mayor, Lake of Bays,

Larry Braid, Mayor, Georgian Bay

Terry Rees, Executive Director, Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations

Ian Beverley, President, Lakes of Bays Association

Doug Gammage, President, Lake Rosseau North Association

Nancy Cohen, President, Lake Joseph North Association

Jamie McGarvey, Mayor, Parry Sound

Norm Miller MPP, Parry Sound – Muskoka