



January 5, 2021

Christine Hogarth MPP
195 Norseman St, Etobicoke, ON M8Z 0E9

Sent via email to: christine.hogarthco@pc.ola.org

Re: Bill 229 Schedule 6

Dear MPP Hogarth,

The Mimico Residents Association (“the MRA”), wishes to express our concern and disappointment at the passing of Schedule 6 of Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020 in December.

Conservation authorities have an important role to play, especially when the effects of climate change are only becoming more severe. In particular, we are concerned about the impact that this will have on flooding - and ensuing safety issues and damage to homes, ecosystems, and the economy not only of our neighbourhood, but the province in general. Please consider some of the following:

- According to a study conducted in 2010 by the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, it states “since 2010 flooding has emerged as the costliest extreme weather disaster affecting Canadians, leading to increases in disaster-assistance payouts by federal, provincial and territorial governments, and in insurable and uninsurable losses. Additionally, the burden on the mental health of Canadians who have experienced losses from flooding is increasingly evident.”
- On November 29, 2018, the Ontario government released the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan to protect our air, land and water and reduce litter and waste, while lowering greenhouse gas emissions and helping communities prepare for climate change. The plan removed the carbon tax, widely seen in many jurisdictions as the fairest and most market-driven approach to apply the “polluter pays” principle - this would mitigate the amount of carbon emissions released, the key driver of climate change. In addition, the Auditor General remarked that the plan is insufficient, and that Ontario is on course to miss its 2030 emission-reduction target.
- Your own government released “[Protecting People and Property: Ontario’s Flooding Strategy](#)” in March of 2020, which recognized the importance of conservation authorities. Within the report, it states: “Each of Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities currently regulate development and other activities through a permitting process under Section 28 (1) of the Conservation Authorities Act. These regulations support the role conservation authorities play in preparing and protecting against the risk of natural hazards.” Which is why it is shocking that for Schedule 6 of Bill 229, which you recently voted in support of, mitigates the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority’s (TRCA’s) ability to maintain their well-established watershed policies and science-based regulations. For example, it is now possible for a situation where TRCA would be forced to issue a permit in contravention to our mandate of protecting public health and safety and conserving natural resources where a Minister’s Zoning Order under the Planning Act has been issued. Also, any conditions to mitigate risk imposed by TRCA could be appealed by the landowner to the Minister directly, or to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal, a body with no

experience rendering decisions related to conservation authority permits. This puts self-interest of private parties, particularly developers, ahead of the safety of the community.

- Mimico, along with much of your riding, including Humber Bay Shores, Long Branch, and New Toronto - is on the lake and between two major watersheds (namely Mimico Creek and Etobicoke Creek). The TRCA states: "The Mimico watershed... as a watershed shaped so extensively by human intervention, its management requires close attention to the protection, enhancement and expansion of its remaining natural systems and the improvement of its water quality by improving and limiting urban storm water runoff."
- With significant development projects under way including the old Christie's site and in the Mimico Judson Triangle, as well as plans to add infrastructure including a Park Lawn Go station, this will only add to the pressures on the ecosystem, and add to the proportion of the approximately 1.7 million Canadian households, or 19% of Canada's population, which are at risk of riverine and/or overland flooding.

Removing the authority of the TRCA and other conservation authorities removes significant guardrails to protect our community.

This paints a grim picture not just for Mimico, but for waterfront and riverside communities across the province. As our provincial representative, can you:

- Ensure that the accountability function that Conservation Authorities have to reconcile development with the protection of watersheds and wetlands continues to be represented, either through these authorities or other parties, in line with your government's own recommendations
- Provide clarity on how wetlands and watersheds will be protected in our riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore and ensure that continued development does not negatively affect their function;
- Detail how the province will protect residents from the impact of extreme weather incidents in our community

Sincerely,



Mike Majeski
President
Mimico Residents Association

Cc: Premier Doug Ford, MPP Andrea Horwath, MP James Maloney, Councillor Mark Grimes, MPP Jeff Yurek, MPP John Yakabuski, MPP Steve Clark