



July 13, 2020

Mr. Doug Black, Mayor
Town of Carleton Place
175 Bridge Street
Carleton Place, ON
K7C 2V8

Dear Mayor Black and Council,

Funding of flood control infrastructure on the Mississippi River

Attached you will find a letter sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding under-funding of water and erosion control infrastructure in the province. Specifically, we are concerned that the Authority received no funding towards reconstruction of the Shabomeka Dam or for an environmental assessment to replace the Kashwakamak Dam, our two largest dams, both built over 100 years ago, and structures that protect commercial interests and communities in the watershed.

When the province does not fund replacement of these assets, municipalities are left to fill the void. The province has not increased or indexed funding of the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program since it was established in 2003. Over 100 applications were submitted to the program in 2020. The insufficiency of the \$5 million funding envelop becomes readily apparent when one considers that \$550k was requested for the above two projects alone, or over 10% of the total program budget.

Members of the MVCA Board ask you to add your voice to the Authority's request to the province to increase funding to the WECI program so that vital structures in rural Ontario receive the money needed to protect people and property in our communities. We also ask that you request the province to address long-standing issues with program administration that sees hundreds of thousands of dollars unnecessarily returned to the province instead of invested in local infrastructure.

Attached is a draft motion for your consideration. Please feel free to amend as you deem appropriate. Any support you can provide would be most appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janet J. Mason'.

Janet Mason,
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sally McIntyre'.

Sally McIntyre,
General Manager

c. Jeff Atkinson and Theresa Fritz

DRAFT MOTION

Whereas the province reaffirmed its commitment to “continue its cost share funding arrangement with municipalities...to support high priority repairs to conservation authority infrastructure” in its March 2020 *Ontario Flooding Strategy*;

And whereas the province allocated \$5 million annually for this purpose in 2003 and has not increased or indexed the funding envelop in 17 years;

And whereas demand for replacement and upgrade of water and erosion control assets is ever increasing due to aging infrastructure and the impacts of climate change;

And whereas critical infrastructure within the Mississippi Valley watershed that serves this municipality did not receive funding this year and there are no guarantees that it will in the foreseeable future based upon current program demand;

And whereas, should funding not be received from the province for these and other MVCA capital projects the burden of those costs will fall in part to this municipality;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the CAO be directed to draft a letter on behalf of Council for submission to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing supporting the letter from the MVCA and requesting that funding of the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program be significantly increased and that program rules be adjusted to allow for reasonable construction periods and the carry-over of funds between fiscal years.