

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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357-2021-555

February 25, 2021

Mr. John MacKenzie
Chief Executive Officer
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Email: John.MacKenzie@trca.ca

Dear Mr. MacKenzie,

Thank you for your February 8, 2021 email seeking Minister exceptions under the *Conservation Authorities Act* related to recently proclaimed legislative amendments affecting chair and vice-chair appointments and requiring a percentage of municipal appointments of authority members to be members of council. I understand you also had inquiries regarding my authority to appoint an additional member as a representative of the agricultural sector to a conservation authority.

After carefully considering your application regarding chair and vice-chair appointments, I will grant the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) an exception pursuant to my authority under clauses 17(1.3) (a) and (b) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

I hereby grant the TRCA with an exception to subsection 17 (1.1) and (1.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. This exception would allow the current chair and vice-chair to be appointed for a total of two more years, and to therefore hold office for more than two consecutive terms. I am also granting an exception to allow the TRCA to re-appoint as chair or vice-chair a member who was appointed by the same participating municipality. This would mean there would be no rotation of the chair and vice-chair amongst participating municipalities at the next annual general meeting or for the next two years for the duration of the re-appointment.

This exception is being granted on the condition that the TRCA authority membership votes on and passes a resolution stating that it supports the February 8, 2021 application from TRCA's CEO and the rationale stated in the application. The authority membership would then be able to vote under subsection 17(1) of the CAA on who to appoint as chair and vice chair of the authority.

I note that the intent of the changes made through Bill 229 to section 17 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* were to encourage the fuller representation and perspective from participating municipalities in a conservation authority. I encourage the TRCA membership to take this into account when considering future appointments to the positions of chair and vice-chair.

Mr. John MacKenzie
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I would ask that you share this correspondence with all members of the TRCA. I also ask that you provide me with a copy of the votes of the authority on this matter.

I would also like to thank the City of Toronto and Mono/Adjala-Tosorontio for their applications for my permission to select less than 70 per cent of the TRCA appointees from among the members of municipal council. Since the non-elected members representing both the City of Toronto (seven members) and the Township of Mono/Adjala-Tosorontio (one member alternating between the municipalities for each term) have current terms of appointment that run through 2022 (Mono/Adjala-Tosorontio) and 2023 (City of Toronto) respectively, there is no need for an exception at this time, and these members can continue to serve out their existing terms. Should the participating municipalities wish, they can seek an exception closer to the termination of these appointments.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your suggestion that if the current chair is re-elected and/or remains a member of the TRCA as a Region of Peel representative, the appointment of an additional agricultural representative during the two year term may not be needed. I will take your suggestion into consideration going forward as I consider exercising my discretion to appoint additional members to conservation authorities as representatives of the agricultural sector.

I appreciate the dedication of the TRCA for your continued work and contributions to protecting people and property from natural hazards, the conservation and management of conservation authority-owned lands, and your role in drinking water source protection. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Yurek', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Jennifer Innis, Chair, TRCA
Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer, TRCA
Michelle Sirizzotti, Chief of Staff, CEO's Office, TRCA
Alisa Mahrova, Clerk and Manager, Policy, TRCA
Chloe Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division, MECP
Keley Katona, Director, Source Protection Programs Branch, MECP

RES.#A3/21 -

**REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION TO SUBSECTIONS 17(1.1) AND 17(1.2)
OF THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT**

Moved by: Linda Jackson
Seconded by: Paul Ainslie

WHEREAS on February 25, 2021, pursuant to clauses 17(1.3) (a) and (b) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks has granted Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) a conditional exception to subsections 17 (1.1) and (1.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*,

AND WHEREAS, the exception is granted on a condition that the TRCA Board membership votes on and passes a resolution stating that it supports the February 8, 2021 application from TRCA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the rationale stated in the application;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the February 25, 2021 correspondence item be received;

THAT the February 8, 2021 application from TRCA's CEO be endorsed;

THAT, under subsection 17(1.3) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Board of Directors request that the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks grant TRCA with an exception to subsections 17(1.1) and 17(1.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

CARRIED

RECORDED VOTE

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Paul Ainslie | Yes |
| Kevin Ashe | Yes |
| Shelley Carroll | Yes |
| Ronald Chopowick | Yes |
| Dipika Damerla | Yes |
| Joanne Dies | Yes |
| Joe DiPaola | Yes |
| Jennifer Drake | Absent |
| Paula Fletcher | Absent |
| Chris Fonseca | Yes |
| Xiao Han | Yes |
| Jack Heath | Yes |
| Gordon Highet | Yes |
| Jennifer Innis | Yes |
| Linda Jackson | Yes |
| Maria Kelleher | Yes |
| Mike Layton | Yes |
| Josh Matlow | Yes |
| Basudeb Mukherjee | Yes |
| Michael Palleschi | Yes |
| James Pasternak | Yes |
| Steve Pellegrini | Yes |

Anthony Perruzza
Gino Rosati
Rowena Santos
Don Sinclair
Connie Tang
Estair Van Wagner

Yes
Yes
Absent
Yes
Yes
Absent