



The Regional  
Municipality of  
Durham

Corporate Services  
Department –  
Legislative Services

605 Rossland Rd. E.  
Level 1  
P.O. Box 623  
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3  
Canada

905-668-7711  
1-800-372-1102  
Fax: 905-668-9963

[durham.ca](http://durham.ca)

July 5, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

**RE: Motion re: Lake Ontario Water Levels, Our File: E00**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on June 26, 2019, adopted the following recommendations of the Works Committee:

“That the following resolution be endorsed:

‘Whereas Lake Ontario is a valuable regional, national and international resource;

That Global warming and climate change is a major concern, and that it be recognized by all levels of government as a contributor to flooding issues;

Whereas Federal Governments of the United States and Canada and the International Joint Commission have, in partnership with the States and Provinces, a joint interest in the management of Lake Ontario;

Whereas the management of the lake levels falls within this joint interest;

Whereas the flooding experienced by the residents and business owners of Durham Region has resulted in affecting resident’s safety, has caused significant property damage and economic loss;

Whereas Municipalities within Durham Region have expended significant staffing resources and financial resources in flood mitigation and protections;

Whereas the flooding experienced by the Durham Region threatens regional and municipal infrastructure;

And whereas it is conceivable and reasonable to anticipate future flooding as was experienced in the spring of 2017 and is being experienced now in 2019;

Now therefore be it resolved that:

The Canadian Representatives of the International Joint Commission and the Federal Government immediately review and amend Plan 2014 to better protect the interests of Municipalities, Emergency Responders and Riparian's;

And be it resolved that the Provincial Government review and increase the funding provided to municipalities as the first line in flood prevention, preparation, mitigation, response and recovery commensurate to the anticipated increased flooding, erosion and damages;

And be it resolved that the Provincial and Federal Governments be requested to strike a committee to review mitigation and safety plans for the communities fronting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway; and that Durham Region be invited to participate on the committee;

And that this resolution be circulated to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, MP Chrystia Freeland (Foreign Affairs), MPP Sylvia Jones (Solicitor General), MPP Steven Clark (Municipal Affairs and Housing), Canadian Representatives of the International Joint Commission (IJC), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, and all Ontario municipalities'."

Regional Council also endorsed the resolution adopted by the Municipality of Clarington at their Council meeting held on May 21, 2019 regarding the initiation of a Provincial Flood Task Force.

*Ralph Walton*

Ralph Walton,  
Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

RW/sp

c: Honourable Premier Doug Ford  
Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General  
Honourable Steven Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Canadian Representatives of the International Joint Commission  
(IJC)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
All Ontario Municipalities  
S. Siopis, Commissioner of Works