



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Landowners Association Supports

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

August 27, 2019.

On August 16, 2019, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Jeff Yurek, MPP for ELGIN-MIDDLESEX-LONDON, sent a letter to the Conservation Authorities of Ontario.

In his letter, Minister Yurek requires the Conservation Authorities to ...

“re-focus their efforts on the delivery of programs and services related to their core mandate”

and the Minister ... *“will be reviewing all of the relevant legislation and regulations that govern Ontario’s conservation authorities to explore ever more opportunities to re-focus their efforts and to ensure they are best serving the interests of the people of Ontario”.*

The Ontario Landowners Association, having reviewed the letter by Minister Yurek, fully supports his comments and the direction he intends to move the Conservation Authorities in.

Since 2003, the OLA has been a staunch supporter of Private Property Rights. The announcement by Minister Yurek, is the first major step forward by a Provincial Government to respect the rights of individual Private Property owners.

Family Farms have hope that intrusive legislation into Normal Farm Practice will be removed.

Multi-generational private cottage and hunt camps have hope that regulations are removed so families may continue to enjoy time honored traditional gatherings.

Private Property owners have hope that wetland designations are removed from their land because Municipalities have reduced flooding by cleaning drains under the *Drainage Act* without interference by CA’s requiring permits and environmental studies. Creating wetlands is a higher priority for CA’s than cleaning drains to protect property and homes from flooding.

Private Property owners have hope that Building permits and Septic permits will be issued, without the requirement of a CA clearance letter or numerous environmental studies.

Private Property owners have hope that shoreline erosion will not be impeded by CA’s resulting in loss of property and property value.

These issues and others are not a core mandate of CA’s. The Ontario Landowners Association applauds the changes Minister Yurek will make to bring Conservation Authorities back to their core mandate of protecting people and property from flooding.

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President

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