



MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

KENHTEKE KANYEN'KEHÀ:KA

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

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October 19, 2023

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Permissions Modernization Team
Client Services and Permissions Branch
135 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 1, Toronto, ON, M4V 1P5

Subject: Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Comments on Ontario Proposals – Exploring changes to streamline the permit-by-rule framework, Streamlining permissions for water takings for construction site dewatering activities and foundation drains, Streamlining environmental permissions for waste management systems under the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry, Streamlining environmental permissions for stormwater management under the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (ERO Numbers 019-6951, 019-6853, 019-6963, 019-6928 respectively)

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte appreciate the opportunity to comment on the above referenced proposals that will affect projects being carried out in Ontario, including the lands surrounding the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. We would like to note that the Ontario, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) proposals posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario on August 31, 2023, represented by ERO numbers 019-6951, 019-6853, 019-6963, 019-6928 are of great concern to our community. It is evident that the proposals both individually and collectively have the potential to cause serious adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

The above-mentioned proposals will allow self-registration for projects involving stormwater management, water taking and dewatering for construction as well as for waste management systems projects involving asbestos waste, biomedical waste, treated biomedical waste, hazardous waste, liquid industrial waste and treated waste that can not be disposed of by land. Self registration will eliminate MECP's application review prior to work commencing thereby weakening regulatory oversight. Of additional concern, self registration will eliminate public review which could affect Indigenous consultation and ultimately a potential disregard for Indigenous and treaty rights. Without the initial government review and oversight, it is anticipated that self-registered projects involving the above-mentioned activities will have a higher potential of being mismanaged and non-compliant with acts and regulations. Less oversight on the transportation and disposal of asbestos waste, biomedical waste, treated biomedical waste, hazardous waste, liquid industrial waste, and treated waste has the potential to decrease mitigation for spills which would put Ontario's environment and our necessary

resources at risk. Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte would like to note that the proposals are likely to have direct and indirect negative affects on our traditional and treaty rights through potential environmental pollution that would put our food for sustenance and water resources at risk.

Additionally, the proposals would allow high quantity water takings, discharge, and dewatering activities to proceed immediately after self registration with no approvals, permits or reporting to the local conservation authority required. Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte currently rely on our local conservation authorities to monitor, protect and inform us of the health of our source water. Further, we understand that current permitting and approval processes are crucial in assessing the potential negative environmental impact of a project, and the process initiates essential education to ensure projects are carried out with minimal impact. Without the current permitting and approval processes for the above-mentioned activities, there could be an increase in environmental negligence, oversight, and non-compliances. The proposals eliminate various safeguards that have been put in place over the years in recognition of their necessity for environmental and human health safety. For the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte they put our source and drinking water security at risk that we have worked diligently toward improving for years along side partners like the Bay of Quinte Restoration Council, Source Protection Committee and Quinte Conservation.

It should be considered, that bypassing the MECP's application review as well as certain permitting and approval processes to expedite projects involving the above-mentioned activities will be at the expense of environmental and human health. Given our concerns for our community, the potential impact to our traditional and treaty rights, and the overall environmental and human health safety risks, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte are asking that the proposals referenced herein do not proceed.

The above shall not be construed so as to derogate from or abrogate any inherent, Aboriginal, treaty, constitutional, or legal rights of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.

Sincerely,



R. Donald Maracle, Chief
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

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