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TOWN OF AJAX

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February 20, 2015

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Wynne:

I would like to commend you and your government on the introduction of the *Great Lakes Protection Act* before the Ontario Legislature. The Act, if passed, has the potential to boldly change the value society places on the Great Lakes while helping to ensure the health of this critical resource for current and future generations.

As you know, the Ajax nearshore is in crisis as a result of the current levels of phosphorus discharge from the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). The Plant's phosphorus causes a proliferation of nuisance algae growth in the Ajax nearshore, which destroys fish habitat and deprives Ajax residents of the use of their waterfront and beaches. When choked with algae, the waters of the Ajax nearshore are not "fishable, drinkable and swimmable". Further, the odour from the decomposing algae has adverse impacts on the use of the waterfront and private residential outdoor areas. We are currently undertaking scientific work which clearly indicates that phosphorus is not a lake-wide problem, but indicates the substantive algae growth in the Ajax nearshore is caused by the WPCP outfall.

Without your intervention, this crisis will worsen as the Regions of York and Durham triple phosphorus discharges to these degraded nearshore waters. The Regions currently propose a course of action that is completely inconsistent with your government's commitments and policy mandate pursuant to the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*, and the proposed Act, both of which require load reduction and protection of the nearshore to prevent nuisance algae growth. Allowing the Class EA to proceed in its current form will simply create a larger issue that the province will have to deal with, at provincial cost, down the road. In accordance with the polluter pay principle, it is the Region's obligation to internalize the cost of waste treatment and prevent impacts from occurring. It should not be left to Ajax, or to Ontario, to clean up the adverse impacts caused by inadequate waste disposal practices.

During the election, Liberal MPP for Ajax-Pickering, Joe Dickson, along with three opposition candidates, signed a pledge to ensure a proper individual environmental assessment was carried out in relation to the Duffin Creek WPCP. In addition, I understand you personally had positive dialogue with our citizens group, PACT POW during your campaign stop in Durham.

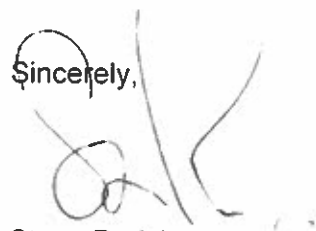
Based on this support during the election and your commitment to the Great Lakes, we ask that your government follow through by approving the Town's Part II Order Request and requiring the Regions to conduct a full individual EA. The Terms of Reference for the EA must require the

Regions to identify and implement a solution that will ensure that phosphorus from the Plant is not discharged within nearshore algae habitat. This can be accomplished by removing the phosphorus from the Plant's effluent prior to discharge and/or by discharging effluent much farther offshore, where algae cannot grow.

Since you have taken office, you have shown strong leadership, innovation and a willingness to take risks in order to tackle the province's environmental challenges. We'd like to complete our scientific research and work collaboratively with the Province and the Region to show how easy and cost-effective it can be to clean-up Ontario's nearshore waters. The introduction of the *Great Lakes Protection Act* sets the bar for action on the Ajax file.

cc: The Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment
gmurray.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Mr. Joe Dickson, Member of Provincial Parliament for Ajax-Pickering
jdickson.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SP', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Steve Parish
Mayor
Town of Ajax