



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tel.: 416-314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3  
Tél. : 416.314.6790

357-2021-893

May 25, 2021

Ms. Sommer Casgrain-Robertson  
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Email: [sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca](mailto:sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca)

Mr. Pieter Leenhouts  
Chair  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Email: [pieter.leenhouts@gmail.com](mailto:pieter.leenhouts@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Casgrain-Robertson and Mr. Leenhouts:

Thank you for your application submitted on March 8, 2021 on behalf of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), seeking a Minister's exception under the *Conservation Authorities Act* related to recently proclaimed legislative amendments affecting chair and vice-chair appointments.

After carefully considering your application regarding the appointment of a chair and vice-chair, I am granting the RVCA an exception to subsections 17 (1.1) and (1.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* pursuant to my authority under clauses 17(1.3) (a) and (b). This exception allows the current chair and vice-chair to be re-appointed for a total of two more years, subject to re-election in both 2021 and 2022, and to therefore hold office for more than two consecutive terms. I am also granting an exception to allow the RVCA to re-appoint as chair and vice-chair members who have been appointed by the same participating municipality. This would mean there would be no rotation of the chair and vice-chair amongst participating municipalities for the next two years for the duration of the re-appointment, subject to re-elections in 2021 and 2022.

I note that the intent of the changes made through Bill 229, the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020*, to section 17 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* was to encourage fuller representation and perspectives from participating municipalities in a conservation authority. I encourage the RVCA membership to take this into account when considering future appointments to the positions of chair and vice-chair. I would ask that you share this correspondence with all members of the RVCA.

I appreciate the dedication of the RVCA 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".

Jeff Yurek  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Chloe Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division, MECP  
Debbie Scanlon, Manager, Conservation Authority Office, MECP