



## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

### NOTICE OF MOTION

INTRODUCTION DATE: March 30, 2020  
SUBJECT: Support of Conservation Authorities  
CONSIDERATION DATE: March 30, 2020  
REQUESTED BY: Councillor \_\_\_\_\_  
SECONDED BY: Councillor \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of Milton is a member of Conservation Halton (CH), the Credit Valley (CVC), Grand River (GRCA) Conservation Authorities (CA) and is represented on their Board of Directors;

**WHEREAS** the municipally appointed board of directors determines the policies, priorities and budget of the CAs;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipality of Milton has been well served by these Conservation Authorities;

**AND WHEREAS** the CAs are watershed-based organizations providing programs and services that contribute to a safer, sustainable environment and address climate change

**AND WHEREAS** the CAs have flood management programs employing a watershed-based approach that monitors stream flow, water levels and climatic conditions, forecasts flooding, issues flood warnings, regulates development activities in natural hazards, educates the public

about flooding, operates flood management infrastructure, protects natural cover and manages stormwater that helps reduce the impacts of flooding;

**AND WHEREAS** the CAs are partners with municipalities in developing the science and policy to manage drinking water source protection;

**AND WHEREAS** the CA owns, manages and operates a valuable network of conservation areas that provide access to green space and family friendly recreation activities for our growing communities, contributes to the local economy, provides jobs for youth and promotes health and wellness for our residents. It also provides outdoor experiential education to local school children and encourages communities to embrace and value our natural and scenic assets;

**AND WHEREAS** the CA undertakes reforestation and landscape restoration and aids landowners to make changes on their properties in support of naturalization or water quality protection within the watershed;

**AND WHEREAS** the CAs provide the Region with technical expertise in support of its planning and infrastructure delivery, education and health programs;

**AND WHEREAS** CAs are important partners in on-the-ground and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipality has service agreements with each CA for planning and other services;

**AND WHEREAS** the CA must be able to charge fees, and derive revenue from its facilities, programs and services as appropriate to reduce the burden to the tax levy;

**AND WHEREAS** the Ontario provincial government has cut 50% from their \$7.4 million Natural Hazards Transfer Payment Grant (Section 39) to Ontario conservation authorities that supports flood and erosion control infrastructure, flood forecasting and warning, watershed planning projects and technical studies, and the new act has the effect of downloading additional responsibilities to the CAs to be paid for by municipalities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Municipality of Milton request that the Provincial Government restore or improve their funding of Conservation Authorities to provide a more stable funding base that would prevent further downloading of costs to municipalities and allow maintenance of hazard programs;

**THAT** the Provincial Government ensure that the programs and services of the CAs maintain their watershed focus and allow for the flexibility of including programs and services important to local circumstances;

**THAT** the Province include experts from Conservation Authorities, staff of the Ministries of Natural Resources and Forestry, Environment Conservation and Parks as well as Municipal Affairs and Housing and municipalities when developing the draft regulations;

**THAT** the Province not dictate the form, content or duration of the MOU's or agreements, allowing for municipalities to support non-mandatory programs in a manner that suits local circumstances;

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all local MPPs, all local Conservation Authorities and Association of Municipalities of Ontario.