



May 16, 2019
The Friends of the Sanctuary
P.O. Box 156
Ingleside, Ontario
Canada
K0C 1M0

**The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ferguson Block
11th Floor
77 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5**

Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 013-5018

Subject: In response to the April 5th, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' posting number 013-5018 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario; 'Modernizing conservation authority operations – Conservation Authorities Act'.

Dear Minister Phillips,

The Friends of the Sanctuary has a strong history of close collaboration with South Nation Conservation (SNC) to organise community events and partner on stewardship projects that supplement SNC's environmental mandate.

This includes partnering with SNC to deliver:

- River events along the St. Lawrence, Ottawa and South Nation Rivers;
- Community events dedicated to showcasing local exhibitors and environment;
- Community and park clean-ups;
- Cost-effective recreational opportunities for local families.

SNC also provides support, including:

- Supporting community partners with events that promote the local environment;
- Integrating watershed environmental knowledge into programs and outreach;
- Providing hands-on staff support for event planning, marketing and coordination.

SNC has and continues to provide significant value to the local communities it serves through the following core services;

- **Fostering Landowner Stewardship** – plant trees, manage community lands, offer resources, and work with partners on important water quality improvement projects.
- **Protecting People and Property** – Map and regulate floodplains and natural hazards, work closely with municipalities, residents and build community to support sustainable

development, deliver flood forecasting programs and protect drinking water sources.

- **Providing Natural Spaces and Recreational Opportunities** – own and manage over 20,000 acres of public natural spaces.
- **Making Science-Based Decisions** – collect water, stream, fisheries, forestry and wetland data to support stewardship programs and guide sustainable development.
- **Empowering Communities and Youth** – Partner with schools and communities to deliver on-the-ground stewardship work and environmental education.

SNC's working relationship with the *Friends of the Sanctuary* is a testament to their boots-on-the-ground approach to working directly with local partners, stakeholders and residents in a meaningful way.

Without support from SNC, partners such as the *Friends of the Sanctuary* could be faced with difficulties in delivering cost-effective community events for the people.

SNC staff has demonstrated the ability, local knowledge and expertise required to organise and promote community projects that promote the local environment and raise awareness of protecting people and property from natural hazards.

We are committed to supporting SNC's ability to deliver important on-the-ground services to local partners that connect people to nature.

We recognize your intent to focus SNC on their core mandate but we urge you not to underestimate the value of their supplemental activities towards instilling a conservation mindset in the public and towards their support of likeminded organisations such as ours.

Sincerely,



Ross J. Miller
President
The Friends of the Sanctuary