



May 16, 2019

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 St. Lawrence River Institute has a strong history of close collaboration with Ontario's Conservation Authorities (CA's), in particular South Nation Conservation (SNC) and Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA), to organize community events and partner on stewardship projects that supplement their environmental mandate.

This includes partnering with SNC and RRCA 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 and RRCA also provide 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.

These CA's have and continue to provide significant value to the local communities they serve through the following core services;

- **Fostering Landowner Stewardship** – plant trees, manage community lands, offer resources, 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.





SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

- **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.

Our working relationships with SNC and RRCA are 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 these CA's, partners such as the St. Lawrence River Institute could be faced with difficulties in delivering cost-effective community events for the people.

Both SNC and RRCA staff have demonstrated the ability, local knowledge and expertise required to organize 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 and RRCA's ability to deliver important on-the-ground services to local partners that connect people to nature.

We encourage the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to consider the value in the services provided by Conservation Authorities that supplement their core mandate of protecting people and property from natural hazards.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ridal, PhD
Executive Director
St. Lawrence River Institute