



# **Fish and Wildlife Committee**

# **Meeting Agenda**

Date: November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

Location: Watershed Room, SNC Office

Address: 38 Victoria Street, Finch, ON K0C 1K0





## **Fish and Wildlife Committee**

# **Meeting Agenda**

November 29th, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

1.	Cha	ir's	Rem	arks

- 2. Approval of Fish and Wildlife Committee Agenda (Supplemental Agenda)
- 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- 4. SNC Fish and Wildlife Project Update PowerPoint Presentation: Staff
- 5. Approval of the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting minutes of September 6th, 2022 3-7
- 6. New Business:

a.	Update: Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022: Carl	8-19
b.	Request for Approval: Programs and Services Work Plan for Municipal	
	Engagement: Ronda	20-22
c.	Update: Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership: Michelle	23-24
d.	Update: 2022 Year End Report: Brent	25-28
e.	Update: SNC Approved Grants Summary (2018-2022): Ronda	29-35
f.	Request for Approval: 2023 Committee Meeting Schedule: Ronda	36

- 7. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
- 8. Correspondence (if any)
- 9. Roundtable Discussions
  - a. Community Engagement Activities
  - b. Watershed Monitoring Report
- 10. Date of Next Meeting:
  - February 28th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at the SNC Office
- 11. Adjournment

Ronda Boutz,

Secretary-Treasurer.





#### FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – Meeting 03/22

**SNC Watershed Room** 

Present: Frederick Schueler, Committee Chair

Alvin Cluff-Clyburne, Russell Fish and Game Club

Joffre Cote, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (non-voting)

Aleta Karstad, Fragile Inheritance Natural History

Kirk Myelde, Public Citizen

Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors

Larry Smith, South Nation Archery Supply (electronic participation)

Regrets: Malcolm Clark, Russell Fish and Game Club

Doug Culver, Naturalist and Recreational Angler

George Darouze, SNC Board of Directors, Past Chair, ex-officio

Stéphane Dubuc, Trapper

Steve Densham, SNC Board of Directors, Vice Chair, ex-officio

Susan Gallinger, Public Citizen (non-voting)

Pierre Leroux, SNC Board of Directors, Chair, ex-officio

Doug Thompson, Public Citizen

Absent: Abraham Francis, Mohawks of Akwesasne

Staff: Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects

Hope Boyle, Stewardship Assistant

Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship

Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist

Naomi Langlois-Anderson, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician

Sandra Mancini, Team Lead, Engineering Alison McDonald, Team Lead, Approvals

Ottawa































## **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Fred Schueler, Committee Chair, called the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to order at 3:10 p.m. Fred shared slides from an invertebrates workshop hosted at High Falls in July.

## APPROVAL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. FW-016/22 Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

Seconded by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT: The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife

Committee meeting agenda of September 7<sup>th</sup>,

2022 as submitted.

**CARRIED** 

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

SNC FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECT UPDATE - POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Staff presented fish and wildlife project and program updates.

# APPROVAL OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. FW-017/22 Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

Seconded by: Kirk Myelde

RESOLVED THAT: The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife

Committee virtual meeting minutes of

June 7th, 2022 as submitted.

**CARRIED** 

The Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting recessed at 4:25 p.m. for a break. The Chair reconvened the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

The Board observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Gerri Kautz, former SNC Board Director representing the City of Ottawa, and former Lloyd Benedict, Forestry Committee member.





## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **UPDATE: CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT UPDATES AND PROGRESS REPORT #2**

Angela Coleman presented a PowerPoint update on the *Conservation Authority Act* and progress to date on implementing the requirements of the new provincial regulations.

**UPDATE: SNC STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** 

RESOLUTION NO. FW-018/22 Moved by: Bill Smirle

Seconded by: Kirk Myelde

RESOLVED THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and

file the SNC Standing Committee Membership

update.

**CARRIED** 

**UPDATE: CITY OF OTTAWA BEAR BROOK WATERSHED STUDY** 

RESOLUTION NO. FW-019/22 Moved by: Larry Smith

Seconded by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

RESOLVED THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and

file the City of Ottawa Bear Brook Watershed

Study update.

**CARRIED** 

**UPDATE: OPG REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM** 

RESOLUTION NO. FW-020/22 Moved by: Kirk Myelde

Seconded by: Aleta Karstad

RESOLVED THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file

the OPG Regional Biodiversity Program update.

**CARRIED** 





## **UPDATE: OAK VALLEY PIONEER PARK EROSION CONTROL**

RESOLUTION NO. FW-021/22 Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

Seconded by: Larry Smith

RESOLVED THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file

the Oak Valley Pioneer Park Erosion Control

update.

**CARRIED** 

## **UPDATE: INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT ON CONSERVATION LANDS**

RESOLUTION NO. FW-022/22 Moved by: Aleta Karstad

Seconded by: Kirk Myelde

RESOLVED THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file

the Invasive Plant Management on Conservation

Lands update.

CARRIED

Larry Smith left the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

## A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Committee members asked that SNC acknowledge the contributions of past Committee members who retired from the Committee in 2022.

## B. WATERSHED MONITORING REPORT

Fred Schueler reminded Committee members to submit their Watershed Monitoring reports by email.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

 November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Fish and Wildlife Meeting at 3:00 p.m. at the SNC Office in Finch.





## **ADJOURNMENT**

/rb

RESOLUTION NO. FW-23/22	Moved by:	Bill Smirle
RESOLVED THAT:	The Fish and Wildlife September 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 b	Committee meeting of se adjourned at 5:43 p.m.
		CARRIED
Fred Schueler, Committee Chair.	Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treas	surer.





To: Standing Committees

From: Carl Bickerdike, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: November 21, 2022

Subject: Update: Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The SNC Standing Committees receive and file the update on Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act.* 

#### DISCUSSION:

On October 25, 2022, the provincial government introduced Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*; omnibus legislation that amends ten acts including the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The Bill is currently in second reading and is before the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy for consideration.

The Bill proposes significant changes to the land use planning process in Ontario including considerable, and potentially irreversible, operational changes to municipal partners and conservation authorities.

Various amendments in the Bill:

- prohibit municipalities from entering into agreements with conservation authorities (CAs) for the review of planning applications and technical studies;
- exempt certain development projects with *Planning Act* approval from CA natural hazard development permits;
- remove the consideration of 'conservation of lands' and 'pollution' from CA natural hazard development permit decisions;
- reduce municipal development charges and freeze conservation authority fees;
- change the evaluation criteria and weaken protection for Provincially Significant Wetlands; and
- require CAs identify conservation lands that may be suitable for development.

In response to Bill 23, Conservation Ontario presented a submission to Standing Committee on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Eastern Ontario CAs have also been meeting with their partner municipalities and local MPPs to discuss impacts to municipal planning and development processes, and to coordinate responses to the proposed significant environmental policy changes.

South Nation Conservation is actively working with its municipal and CA partners to analyze and mitigate the potential impacts of Bill 23. A summary of SNC action on Bill 23 is below:

Meeting with MPP Sarrazin and MPP Quinn attended by Executive Committee,





SNC Staff and County Staff (United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and United Counties of Prescott and Russell);

- Regular email updates to SNC Board of Directors, Executive, and municipal leadership;
- Press release (attached);
- Meetings with municipal CAOs and elected officials;
- Participation in Conservation Ontario working groups to coordinate response;
- Media interviews with CBC, Le Droit, and Chesterville Record; and
- Leading a coordinated Eastern Ontario submission to standing committee (draft attached).

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Staff will continue to work with member municipalities and Conservation Ontario to raise awareness and seek positive changes to Bill 23. Further updates on Bill 23 will be shared with the Board as they arise.

Carl Bickerdike,

Chief Administrative Officer.

#### Attachments:

Eastern Ontario CAs Respond to Bill 23 – Standing Committee Submission [Draft]

"Loss of Local Decision-Making" – Conservation Authorities Respond to Province's Housing Bill 23 "More Homes Built Faster Act" - SNC Press Release

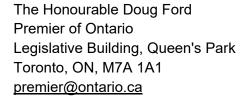
November 15, 2022











The Honourable Graydon Smith
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St W,
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3
minister.mnrf@ontario.ca

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Floor, 777 Bay St,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mah@ontario.ca

The Honourable David Piccini
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay St,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

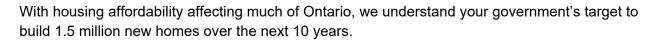


Re: Loss of Local Decision-Making: Bill 23 Does Not Work for Eastern Ontario



Dear Premier Ford, Minister Clark, Minister Smith, and Minister Piccini,













Conservation Authorities (CAs) have always supported long-term sustainable growth. In fact, our role is to ensure land-use decisions made today do not impede future growth tomorrow. We accomplish this by ensuring development has minimal impacts on flooding, erosion, slope stability and water quality by guiding development away from natural hazards and protecting the function of natural features. This can only be accomplished when evaluating growth and its cumulative impacts across a watershed, which is the value and service CAs provide to municipalities. Water flows across municipal boundaries and so do the impacts of development.

In Eastern Ontario, CAs have been working closely with municipalities to reduce barriers to development and streamline processes to provide the best service possible to municipalities, communities, homeowners, and developers. For many, this includes modernizing policies and procedures, streamlining approvals, reducing timelines, meeting and reporting on service standards, and promoting pre-consultation with applicants. CAs are not a barrier to growth, but an assurance that growth is safe and sustainable, and we have been a source of cost-effective expertise for municipalities and developers for decades.

We are committed to doing our part to help increase Ontario's housing supply, but it needs to be accomplished through smart, sustainable growth that will not have detrimental impacts down the road.

We are concerned that some changes proposed in the *More Homes Built Faster Act* will:

- Weaken the ability of conservation authorities to continue protecting people and property from natural hazards such as floods;
- Diminish our ability to protect critical natural infrastructure like wetlands which reduce flooding, droughts and improve water quality in lakes and rivers; and,
- Place new downloaded responsibilities on municipalities related to natural hazards and natural resources that they are unprepared and under resourced to tackle.

We are calling on your government to press pause on the proposed changes highlighted below and to reconvene the multi-stakeholder *Conservation Authorities Working Group* that your government created. This group can help identify alternative solutions that will increase Ontario's housing supply without jeopardizing public safety or downloading additional responsibilities to municipalities. At a time when climate change is causing more frequent and intense storm events, the role and watershed mandate of CAs has never been more critical.

## **Proposed Changes of Concern and Their Potential Impact:**

- 1. If <u>conservation authorities are no longer allowed to provide planning comments to municipalities</u> beyond natural hazards:
  - Municipalities have indicated that they will need to contract this work out to the private sector, where there is already a limited labour market, as most do not have the expertise or capacity to take on this expanded role.
  - Municipalities anticipate higher costs, and possible delays, that will be passed on to applicants and developers. The current model enables municipalities to use existing expertise within the CAs (such as biologists, water resource engineers, ecologists, hydrogeologists) to fulfill responsibilities under the Provincial Policy Statement pertaining to natural heritage and water, while saving time and money for applicants.
  - Municipalities have shared conflict of interest concerns due to the limited availability of
    consultants in Eastern Ontario and shared concerns about the lack of local knowledge
    should they need to secure consultants from other regions.
  - Municipalities are also concerned with the loss of the watershed perspective in making
    planning decisions, which will result in a narrow review of the impacts to natural hazards
    and natural heritage. Municipalities formed CAs to address this very issue.

- 2. If <u>development that is subject to a planning approval is exempt from requiring a permit from the conservation authority:</u>
  - Municipalities will assume greater responsibility and liability for the impact of development on flooding, erosion, slope stability and water quality within municipal boundaries and in upstream and downstream communities.
  - Municipalities and CAs will require more detailed studies and designs at the planning stage which are normally not required until the permitting stage. This would make planning applications more onerous and costly for developers and slow down approvals.
  - Municipalities will also have limited mechanisms to ensure compliance outside of the permitting process if development is not constructed properly.
- 3. If <u>certain types of development are deemed "low risk" and exempted from requiring a</u> conservation authority permit:
  - Public safety and property damage risks may not be adequately addressed as a single
    list of exempted activities across the province will not capture local conditions and
    constraints. Some activities which may be low risk in one watershed, such as fencing or
    auxiliary buildings, may be a significant risk in others that have retrogressive landslide
    areas or ravines.
  - It should also be acknowledged that CAs already have the ability to exempt or streamline review processes for activities that are low risk in their watershed and this practice is already in use by most CAs.
- 4. If the scope of conservation authority permits is narrowed to only address natural hazard issues (removal of "pollution" and "conservation of land" considerations, restrictions on conditions that can be required as part of a permit):
  - CAs may not be able to require development setbacks from water, protect naturalized shorelines or require sediment control during construction.
  - CAs would no longer be able to address water quality concerns, which are required under federally and provincially approved "Remedial Action Plans" for designated "Areas of Concern".
  - CAs use pollution and conservation of land considerations and conditions to limit sediment and nutrient runoff into lakes and rivers that contribute to poor water quality, excessive weed growth and algae blooms. Municipalities would become responsible to address these types of concerns.

- Water quality in lakes and rivers is an important economic driver in Eastern Ontario as it
  impacts property values, tourism, recreation, and commercial fisheries, and it is the source
  of drinking water for many permanent and seasonal residences.
- CAs and municipalities would welcome a consistent definition of "conservation of land" in the new regulations, pertaining to the protection, management, and restoration of lands to maintain or enhance hydrological and ecological functions.
- 5. If the <u>protection of wetlands is diminished</u> (changes to wetland evaluation criteria, elimination of wetland complexing, reduction in the area around wetlands that is regulated, introduction of offsetting measures to compensate for wetland loss and the withdrawal of MNRF as the body responsible for wetland mapping and evaluations):
  - Municipalities are concerned that the withdrawal of MNRF from administering the
    Ontario Wetland Evaluation System and maintaining wetland mapping will be
    downloaded to municipalities to manage reevaluation reports from consultants and
    maintain up-to-date wetland mapping that is needed for development review.
  - Municipalities and CAs are concerned that there will be a loss of wetlands that will have immediate and long-term impacts. Removing wetlands is like removing dams and reservoirs. Wetlands act as infrastructure that absorb and retain a significant volume of snow melt and rain which reduces flood levels during spring runoff and storm events. They also release this water slowly throughout the rest of the year, helping augment water levels in lakes and rivers during low flow periods which reduces drought conditions. Wetlands also filter nutrients and sediment from runoff which improves water quality.
  - These benefits are particularly important where lakes and rivers are supporting
    agriculture, recreation, tourism, and fisheries and acting as a source of drinking water.
    Municipalities and CAs could never afford to build the infrastructure it would take to
    replace wetland functions which is estimated to be billions.
- 6. If the Minister freezes conservation authority fees:
  - Taxpayers, not developers, would absorb increasing costs for development review.
     In this scenario, growth would not be paying for growth.
  - Legislative amendments made earlier this year directed conservation authorities to demonstrate that self-generated revenue such as fees for service are considered where possible to reduce pressure on the municipal levy. This includes plan review and permitting fees that are collected to offset program costs, but not exceed them.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. <u>Municipalities should retain the choice to enter into agreements with conservation authorities</u> for natural heritage and water-related plan review services.
  - Recent legislative amendments by this government now require agreements to include defined terms, timelines, and performance measures, and CAs have demonstrated that they can provide these comments to municipalities in a cost-effective and timely manner. CAs are also already prevented by these earlier amendments from commenting beyond natural hazards if they do not have an agreement with a municipality.
- 2. <u>Development that is subject to plan approval should not be exempt from requiring a conservation authority permit.</u>
  - The planning process is not sufficient to ensure natural hazard concerns are addressed through appropriate design and construction. This change would also place additional responsibility and liability on municipalities.
- 3. Conservation authorities should determine which types of developments are deemed "low risk" through their regulations policies.
  - CAs are already able to create exemptions and streamline review processes that are appropriate locally, given watersheds have unique conditions.
- 4. <u>Maintain "pollution" and "conservation of land" as considerations when conservation</u> <u>authorities are reviewing permit applications but provide a clear definition of each to ensure a consistent approach on how it is applied.</u>
  - Streamlining these definitions will allow CAs to provide consistency to municipalities and developers and meet obligations under other pieces of legislation that require water quality-related comments from CAs.
- 5. Continue to protect wetlands to reduce flooding, provide flow augmentation.
  - Wetlands are critical pieces of natural infrastructure and municipalities cannot afford to build the infrastructure it would take to replicate wetland function to protect upstream and downstream communities from flooding and drought.
- 6. Do not freeze fees to ensure growth pays for growth.
  - Recent legislative amendments by this government now require CAs to demonstrate through their budget process that development review fees are offsetting, but not exceeding, program costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns and recommendations with you.

Our goal is to support you in creating more housing in Ontario while ensuring changes to Ontario's land use planning and permitting system do not have unintended and irreversible consequences on the protection of people, property, and natural resources.

We sincerely hope that you will remove the amendments we have highlighted from Bill 23 before it is passed, and that you will reconvene your government's *Conservation Authorities Working Group* to work with your Ministry to propose alternative improvements and refinements to conservation authority development review processes.

Sincerely,

Martin Lang,

Chair

Raisin Region Conservation Authority

Pierre Leroux

Chair

South Nation River Conservation Authority

Pieter Leenhouts

Chair

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Jeff Atkinson

Chair

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

Paul McAuley

Chair

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

Jåmes Flieler

Chair

**Quinte Conservation Authority** 

J∕an O'Neill

Chair

**Crowe Valley Conservation Authority** 

Eric Sandford

Chair

Lower Trent Conservation Authority

Rvan Huntley

Chair

Chair

Otonabee Region Conservation Authority

Mark Lovshin

Chair

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority

This letter has also been endorsed by the following municipal partners: Mayor Glen Grant Mayor Francøis Landry Township of North Stormont City of Cornwall Warden & Deputy Mayor Carma Williams Mayor Lachlan McDonald Township of North Glengarry Township of South Glengarry Mayor/Tony Fraser Mayor Bryan McGillis Township of North Dundas Township of South Stormont Mayor Nancy Peckford Mayor Genevieve Lajoie Municipality of North Grenville Municipality of Casselman Mayor Tory Deschamps Mayor Jirh Harrison Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal City of Quinte West Mayor Normand Riopel Mayor Brian Ostrander Township of Champlain Municipality of Brighton Mayor Pierre Leroux Mayor Marg Isbester Town of Greater Napanee Township of Russell Mayor Robin Jones Mayor Mario Zanth Village of Westport City of Clarence-Rockland

Mayor Francis Briere

Nation Municipality

Councillor George Darouze,

City of Ottawa

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Mayor Joe Taylor	Mayor Jeff Leal
Township of Otonabee-South Managhan	City of Peterborough
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Mayor Michael Cameron	Reeve Steve Fournier
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Reeve Rob Rainer	Mayor Arie Hoogenboom
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Peter McLaren	
Reeve Peter McLaren	Mayor Shawn Pankow
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## "Loss of Local Decision-Making" - Conservation Authorities Respond to Province's Housing Bill 23 "More Homes Built Faster Act"

November 2, 2022

In a bid to address the housing supply, the Ontario government released a series of proposed legislative changes, many of which impact Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.

Among them, the Province proposes to prevent municipalities from entering into agreements with Conservation Authorities (CAs) to review planning applications on their behalf, proposes exemptions from natural hazard permits for select municipalities, removes 'conservation of lands' and 'pollution' as considerations in permit decisions, freezes development fees, changes the evaluation and protection criteria for Provincially Significant Wetlands and requires CAs to identify conservation lands suitable for development.

Earlier this year, the Province published a "Housing Affordability Task Force Report" that introduced 55 recommendations to increase house supply in Ontario. CAs were not named within the report, demonstrating they are already proactively working with the development industry and all levels of government to ensure safe and sustainable development can occur while balancing the needs of people and the environment, the economy and ecology.

"Conservation Authorities are not a barrier to growth and CAs in high-growth areas of the province are already participating in a Timely Review Task Force with service level commitments of 14, 21, and 28 day reviews, compared to the Province's 30 and 90 day timelines," explains George Darouze, Deputy Mayor and Councillor, Osgoode Ward, City of Ottawa.

Bill 23 is a departure from recent amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act that directed CAs to focus their work on natural hazard related programs but allows municipalities to choose whether CAs provide technical advice based on their local needs and deliver programs in their municipalities through funding agreements.

"Our Conservation Authority works as our municipality's environmental partner," explains Mario Zanth, Mayor of the City of Clarence-Rockland, "CA staff have rolled out the red carpet to help provide timely development approvals to projects in environmentally significant areas. After the Ottawa River floods of 2017 and 2019, people understand the value and impact of the services they provide."

While CAs are created through provincial legislation, they are largely funded and work for municipalities within their watersheds. South Nation Conservation (SNC) is one of the oldest environmental agencies in Ontario and has continued to expand its jurisdiction at the request of municipalities, first along the St. Lawrence River, and more recently, along the Ottawa River.

In Clarence-Rockland, an obvious step after the historic Ottawa River floods was to partner with the CA to complete updated natural hazard maps and to contract SNC to review

































development proposals on their behalf. The result has been a clear win-win for both organizations and the development community to help design sustainable communities, away from natural hazards, while protecting key natural heritage areas.

In Eastern Ontario, SNC has agreements with neighbouring agencies to streamline development review processes and deliver planning services to help municipalities short on resources meet their provincial requirements. Recently, SNC also expanded its septic system program into Leeds-Grenville to help municipalities meet their requirements under the Ontario Building Code after the local Health Unit stopped delivering this service.

These arrangements provide a watershed-based approach to land use planning decisions and coordinate resources to save taxpayer costs. SNC provides shared expertise instead of each of its 16 municipalities having their own hydrogeologist, biologist, and engineers.

"We have a long-standing and positive working relationship with SNC and we appreciate their feedback and expertise in helping us make good planning decisions," added Pierre Leroux, Mayor of Russell Township, "the CA is a valued partner in providing valuable services to our community."

Bill 23 also proposes changes to the classification and protection of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs), areas where development activities require permission from CAs. SNC, unlike other CAs, only regulates development within PSWs and Locally Significant Wetlands (LSWs) that are studied and zoned locally by municipalities for protection. Wetlands minimize the risk of drought, reduce flooding by absorbing and storing excess water and help control erosion. The proposed changes will reduce the area of protected wetlands on the local landscape which means more potential for impacts to communities from flood and drought.

"SNC's approach of supporting the municipality's decisions regarding the required environmental protections and studies allows for local decision-making," explains Steve Densham, Deputy Mayor Elect of the Township of North Stormont, "additionally, given the economies of scale with our CA, we benefit from lower cost and expertise that can efficiently and effectively meet our needs."

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Carl Bickerdike, Chief Administrative Officer, South Nation Conservation, <a href="mailto:cbickerdike@nation.on.ca">cbickerdike@nation.on.ca</a> | 1877-984-2948.





To: Standing Committees

From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer

John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands, and

Community Outreach

Date: November 16, 2022

**Subject:** Request for Approval: Programs and Services Work Plan

for Municipal Engagement

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committees approve the Programs and Services Work Plan for Municipal Engagement as presented.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Province implemented the first phase of *Conservation Authorities Act* ("Act") regulations in October 2021. The regulations require each conservation authority have a transition plan in place by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and create an inventory of programs and services by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

South Nation Conservation's ("SNC") inventory lists programs and services SNC delivers as of February 2022 and programs and services SNC intends to deliver in the future. As per the Act, Programs and Services are divided into categories as follows:

- Category 1: Mandatory programs and services required by regulation. These programs are funded through municipal levy and include:
  - Programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards;
  - Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority;
  - o Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act*, *2006*; and
  - Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities under an Act prescribed by the regulations.
- Category 2: Municipal programs and services provided at the request of a
  municipality. These programs can be funded through government and other agency
  grants and/or municipal funding under a memorandum of understanding or
  agreement with the municipality.
- Category 3: Other programs and services the conservation authority determines
  are advisable. These programs can be funded through self-generated revenue, user
  fees, government and other agency grants, donations, etc. Any use of municipal levy
  requires an agreement and would be subject to cost apportionment.





SNC has a few program and service areas that fall within Category 3, namely the Tree Planting Program, Clean Water Program, Forest Land Acquisition, and any educational and/or outreach initiatives that are not related to Category 1 programs and services (e.g., Community Environmental Grants, Fish Camps, Youth Hunt, and Municipal Free Tree Days). The Tree Planting Program has external funding to offset costs but currently requires funding from municipal levy to support program delivery and reporting.

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Category 3 programs and services will need municipal agreements outlining cost apportionment for any municipal levy required for program delivery. As part of the work plan for implementation of Category 3 – Other Programs and Services, SNC is committed to engaging with its Standing Committees for stakeholder input and confirmation of public support (BD-069/22).

Standing Committee member connections to various stakeholder groups is key in building support for ongoing delivery of Category 3 programs and services. This is important with the recent Municipal election, as new Councillors may not be familiar with SNC and its landowner stewardship initiatives.

Staff have prepared the attached Programs and Services Work Plan for Municipal Engagement for the Committee's consideration.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

No impact on the 2022 Budget.

## SNC Policy Adherence:

Subsection 21.1.2(2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* enables SNC to provide other programs and services, under an agreement with municipalities within its area of jurisdiction, where the municipality has agreed to provide cost apportionment to support the identified programs and/or services.

Ronda Boutz,

Secretary-Treasurer.

John Mesman.

Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands, and Community Outreach.

Attachment: SNC Programs and Services Work Plan for Municipal Engagement





## **SNC Programs and Services Work Plan for Municipal Engagement**

Engagement Activity	SNC Lead	Committee Engagement	Timeline
CATE	GORY 1		
Prescribed under the Act, no engagement required for mandated programs and services.	Management Team	None required, direct any inquiries to the SNC Management Team	Ongoing
CATE	GORY 2		
SNC's Management Team routinely meets with municipalities to discuss opportunities to support municipal programs and services. Agreements/ Memorandums of Understanding are approved as program/service delivery is negotiated.	Management Team	None required, direct any inquiries to the SNC Management Team	Ongoing
CATE	GORY 3		
Development of business cases for each type of program and service proposed as of January 2024.	Ronda Boutz and John Mesman	Provide testimonials and/or any local data.  Committee review and approval of business cases.	February 2023
Meetings with key municipal staff to discuss business case and municipal apportionment required.	Management Team	Committee updates and discussion.	March – April 2023
Category 3 program and services package to Board of Directors for approval prior to engaging with municipal councils.	Ronda Boutz and John Mesman	Committee support at Board of Directors meeting.	March 2023
Presentations to Councils to request approval to enter into a Category 3 agreements.	Ronda Boutz and John Mesman	Attendance and co- presentation of programs and services package.	April – July 2023
Category 3 agreements prepared and signed.	Ronda Boutz, Eric McGill, and John Mesman	Updates provided to Committee, Terms of Reference Updates following approval.	August – November 2023





**To:** Fish and Wildlife Committee

From: Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Special Projects

Date: November 16, 2022

Subject: Update: Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership update.

#### DISCUSSION:

SNC is in the second year of a 3-year partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada to restore wetland habitat within our jurisdiction with funding from the federal Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

There are 12 projects currently in progress on both public and private land. Most of the projects on private property are occurring on marginal agricultural land and consist of small excavations in low-lying areas that are poorly drained and seasonally inundated. The excavated wetlands vary in shape and depth to create habitat complexity and include seeding and plantings of native species.

One of the larger projects involves the construction of a berm in a valley on a small headwater feature. It is a repeat of a project completed on the same property in 2014. The berm will hold back water within the valley to create a ponding area. Some excavation is planned to create various depths in the pond.

A smaller project that SNC recently completed was the construction of beaver dam analogs on a small headwater feature. Hardwood stakes were hammered into the substrate and then branches and cuttings were woven through the stakes and set in place with mud and dirt. The small dams are approximately 40cm in height and were built in locations where there were previous beaver dams or where there were constrictions along the watercourse. Eight beaver dam analogs were built to create a series of small ponding areas and will be closely monitored this spring to see how well they work.

SNC staff have completed the engineering designs for the projects with feedback from Ducks Unlimited Canada and the landowners. Permits have been acquired where needed and quotes from contractors for construction are being sought. Two more projects on private land are moving forward with construction before the end of the year, and then two on SNC property will move forward during the winter.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

This partnership project is included in the 2022 SNC Budget under Resource Management: Projects, Habitat Restoration, pages 24-25.





<u>Policy Adherence</u>: All expenditures for the projects will adhere to SNC's Purchasing Policy, and all work undertaken to complete the projects will adhere to SNC's Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.

Michelle Cavanagh,

Team Lead, Special Projects.





**To:** Fish and Wildlife Committee

From: Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist

Date: November 15, 2022

**Subject:** Update: 2022 Year End Report

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2022 Year End report.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Stewardship Team supports management decision-making through the collection, analysis, and reporting of scientific data. The Team works with landowners to implement stewardship projects on private land to improve water quality and forest cover across the jurisdiction. Each year, the Team undertakes a wide variety of projects which provide cost-effective, professional services, to member Municipalities and partner organizations.

Accomplishments in 2022 include:

#### 1. Monitoring and Restoration

- 27 water temperature loggers were deployed in the Lower South Nation River Subwatershed, Findlay Creek Subwatershed, and South Bear Brook Subwatershed
- Participation in Provincial Monitoring Networks including Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN), Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN)
  - 8 sample events completed at 13 surface water quality stations in support of PWQMN
  - Hourly water levels, manual water level readings, and maintenance completed on 14 groundwater monitoring wells in support of PGMN
- Benthic invertebrate communities assessed at 44 sites following OBBN protocols
- 8 surface water sample events and 4 benthic samples at 12 sites in the City of Ottawa for the Ottawa Baseline Monitoring Program
- Completed sampling on 6 municipal drains under an agreement with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to classify unrated municipal drains

## 2. Projects

Species at Risk Benefits Exchange:

 35 hectares of restored habitat was monitored for grassland vegetation establishment and maintenance requirements





- Mowing was completed on all 35 hectares of grassland to maintain the habitat and limit growth of woody vegetation
- Continued partnership with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission for a portion of the habitat at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary

## Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Biodiversity Project:

- Woodlands: Gamble and Garlandside Road
  - Completed targeted invasive species (Buckthorn) removal at the Garlandside Property OPG Biodiversity project site. The Buckthorn infestation was cut and treated with Garlon™ and the site was replanted with 1,685 native shrubs
  - Completed the removal of dead ash trees and buckthorn from a 0.25 ha plot at the Gamble Property. The site was replanted with 1,900 potted native trees and shrubs
  - Follow-up monitoring of the Buckthorn and survival assessments of planted material will continue in 2023
- Lakes and Rivers: J. Henry Tweed Conservation Area
  - Dead and dying ash trees were removed from the project areas and select logs were kept for the bioengineering components
  - Three prioritized erosion sites were repaired using a mix of standard and bioengineering techniques
  - The designs were completed by SNC and included log deflectors, coir logs, plantings, and strategic rock placement
  - 1,200 potted native trees and shrubs were planted in the park and 12 caliper sized trees will be planted before the end of 2022
  - Collected two benthic invertebrate samples to support long-term monitoring of the project site
  - Additional planting of willow cuttings will occur in the Spring of 2023 along with monitoring of the erosion repairs and survival assessments
- Education and Outreach The Healing Place:
  - 10 project partners/sponsors
  - o The Healing Place (SNC 164), Shanly, ON:
    - Hosted a spring planting events with two local schools to plant the Three Sisters Garden
    - One spring partner event to finalize planting of the Three Sisters Garden
    - Established onsite watering for gardens through installation of 5 holding tanks
    - "Thanksgiving Harvest" event in October with 65 participants to harvest remaining produce and prepare the garden for winter





- Replaced 6 caliper trees and some of the cedar outer ring
- 15+ working group meetings

## Township of South Stormont Environmental Impact Study:

- A second study-year of impact assessment was completed for the Township of South Stormont at the Long Sault East Industrial Park
  - A final Environmental Impact Study is to be completed before 2023

## Ducks Unlimited Canada – Wetland Projects:

- SNC has completed the designs for 7 wetland restoration projects on SNC and private property
- ALUS Ontario East is a partner on two projects on private land and Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program funding has been received for one project
- Two project sites were part of the ALUS East Hub Jamboree tour in October
- Requests for quotes have been sent to contractors and three projects are scheduled to begin before the end of 2022
- SNC and Ducks Unlimited Canada will be issuing a joint press release once construction begins
- Two projects on SNC property are planned for Winter 2023
- Designs are in progress for 4 other projects to be completed in 2023
- All projects include follow-up monitoring post-construction

## Grasslands Ontario – Grassland Stewardship Initiative:

- 40 acres of fallow fields being returned to bird-friendly hay forage productivity on SNC property 164
  - Fields were mown to reduce woody vegetation and fertilized to improve forage quality
  - 195 native trees and shrubs were planted in the hedgerows to increase diversity and improve pollinator and wildlife habitat
  - A local farmer was procured to cut and harvest the late-cut hay
- SNC worked with two private landowners to complete grassland restoration projects and late-cut hay arrangements in the City of Ottawa rural area

## Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) Rights-of-Way Pollinator Restoration:

- SNC applied to and was awarded funding from CWF to establish a 1.5 acre pollinator meadow at Mill Run Conservation Area
- SNC is working closely with CWF staff and member Municipalities and Counties to encourage establishment of roadside and rights-of-way pollinator habitat
  - SNC is assisting Hydro One to plant a meadow within a hydro corridor on SNC property





 SNC is assisting the Township of North Dundas to plant a roadside pollinator habitat

Brent Harbers,

Watershed Biologist.

Buil Harbers





**To:** Fish and Wildlife Committee

From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer

**Date:** October 12, 2022

**Subject:** Update: SNC Approved Grants Summary (2018-2022)

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the SNC Approved Grants Summary (2018-2022) update.

#### DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation (SNC) staff are very successful in obtaining funding from external sources (e.g., government, industry, and non-governmental organizations) to support the Authority's programs and projects.

When submitting funding requests, SNC staff target applications to projects already in the Authority's work plan to maximize opportunities to offset program or project costs. When cost-share is required by a funder, SNC utilizes staffing and other resources included in the Budget as the matching contribution. Cost-share ratios vary depending on the funding agency.

For the Committee's information, a summary of approved grants from 2018-2022 is attached.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

<u>Compliance with Budget</u>: This report has no impact on budget, provided for information purposes. Unbudgeted revenue offsets SNC levy requirements and typically accounts for the majority of year-end surplus.

SNC Policy Adherence: Not applicable.

Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer.

Attachment: SNC Approved Grants Summary (2018-2022)





## **SNC Approved Grants Summary (2018-2022)**

Funder	Program/Project	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Federal						
2 Billion Tree Program	SNC Forests – tree planting on SNC 7				\$16,890	
Agriculture and Agri Food Canada	Agri Risk Grant – hydrogeosphere model	\$139,223				
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Flood Forecasting			\$10,000		
Canada Community Revitalization Fund	Findlay Creek Boardwalk Extension					\$100,000
Canada Nature Fund	Land Acquisition				\$537,500	
Canada-Ontario Job Grant	Canada-Ontario Job Grant		\$2,470			
Canadian Experiences Fund	Augusta Conservation Area			\$31,500		
Canadian Wildlife Federation	Pollinator Habitat Creation				\$14,000	
Eco Action	Riparian Buffers	\$3,848	\$84,283			
Employment and Social Development Canada	Accessible Washrooms in SNC Conservation Areas				\$100,000	
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Vernal Pools		\$24,860			
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Municipal Drain Sampling		\$8,340	\$8,800	\$8,800	\$8,800
Habitat Stewardship Program	Forest Bird Monitoring				\$6,000	
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Ottawa/Nation/St. Lawrence	\$173,923				
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Bear Brook and Tributaries Hazard Mapping				\$145,852	\$119,895
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Ottawa River Flood Hazard Mapping				\$72,503	\$97,553
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Flood Risk Assessment Partnership				\$52,173	\$116,708





Funder	Program/Project	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Ottawa Floodplain mapping		\$174,046			
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	United Counties of Prescott and Russell Floodplain Mapping		\$207,980			
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Ottawa: Additional Emergency Tools		\$157,820			
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Edwardsburgh Cardinal Water Treatment Plant Flood Protection		\$85,100			
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Chesterville Dam		\$400,203			
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Casselman Weir and Russell Weir		\$37,954			
Nature Smart Fund	Land Acquisition				\$796,618	
	Sub-Total	\$316,994	\$1,183,056	\$50,300	\$1,750,336	\$442,956
Provincial						
Great Lakes Guardian Fund	Robert Graham Conservation Area Habitat Restoration	\$25,000				
Great Lakes Guardian Fund	Low Impact Development Demonstration Site	\$25,000				
Great Lakes Guardian Fund	Environmental Education Enhancement/Stream of Dreams	\$25,000				
Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program	Leitrim Wetland Restoration		\$10,000			
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Funding	\$2,756				
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Flood Forecasting and Warning	\$50,000				
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Low Water Response	\$8,000				
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Chesterville Dam			\$33,250	\$6,750	
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Crysler Dyke Assessment			\$9,250	\$10,000	





Funder	Program/Project	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ministry of Natural Resources and	Chesterville Dam – Ice					\$80,000
Forestry	Management					ψου,σοσ
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and	Heritage Organization		\$1,545			
Sport	Development Grant		Ψ1,010			
Ontario Heritage Development Grant	Ontario Heritage Public Awareness			\$1,545		
	Sub-Total	\$135,756	\$11,545	\$44,045	\$16,750	\$80,000
Municipal						
City of Ottawa	Baseline Water Quality Monitoring	\$39,953				
Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program	Wetland Restoration Project					\$5,000
UCPR Waterfront Tourism	St. Albert Park and Dock				\$4,000	
Development Fund	Improvement				\$4,000	
	Sub-Total	\$39,953	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$5,000
Non-Governmental Organization						
ALUS - Ontario East	Wetland Restoration Project					\$5,000
ALUS - Ontario East	Grassland Restoration Project					\$10,000
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Wetlands Restoration				\$125,000	\$125,000
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	Water Budget				\$9,500	
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	St. Lawrence River Hazard Mapping	\$11,730				
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	North Castor Catchment Study	\$4,981	\$19,427			
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	Low Impact Development Pilot Project		\$21,000			
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	Vars-esker weather station and data collection platform		\$8,801			
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	Development of groundwater/ surface water interaction constraint mapping		\$3,985	\$3,124		





Funder	Program/Project	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	South Bear Brook Catchment Study			\$14,575	\$20,448	
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	Climate Stations		\$9,500	\$9,500	\$12,000	\$12,000
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	Phase 1: South Nation River Watershed Water Budget Update Plan				\$9,500	
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	South Nation Conservation Assessing Future Flood Vulnerability in the South Nation River Watershed				\$2,800	\$9,000
Forests Ontario	Regional Sponsorship - Reconciliation and Climate Change Planting			\$7,500	\$7,500	\$10,000
Grasslands Ontario: Grassland Stewardship Initiative	Grassland Habitat Enhancement and Hay Field Rejuvenation				\$8,316	\$20,666
Jane Goodall Foundation	Healing Place – 3 Sisters Garden					\$700
Ontario Land Trust Alliance	Land Acquisition – costs related to acquisition	\$3,886				
Plenty Canada	Regional Sponsorship - Reconciliation and Climate Change Planting			\$1,292		
Unsmoke Canada Cleanups	Findlay Creek and Tree giveaway				\$2,800	
	Sub-Total	\$20,597	\$53,213	\$35,991	\$197,864	\$192,366
Industry Partner						
Enbridge Gas	Chesterville Dam generator		\$5,000			
Enbridge Gas	Donation - J Henry Tweed CA projects			\$5,000		
Enbridge Gas	Stream of Dreams				\$5,000	





Funder	Program/Project	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ontario Power Generation	Wetland & Lakes/Rivers Restoration	\$60,000	\$50,000			
Ontario Power Generation	Healing Place – official opening			\$1,500		
Ontario Power Generation	Healing Place – Remembering the Children				\$1,500	
Ontario Power Generation	Biodiversity Conservation in Partnership with Indigenous Communities				\$5,000	\$5,000
Ontario Power Generation	Lakes/Rivers Restoration			\$75,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
Ontario Power Generation	Healing Place- 3 Sisters Garden					\$1,500
Ontario Power Generation	Healing Place - Thanksgiving Harvest					\$1,500
TD Friends of Environment	WE Burton Signs				\$3,000	
TD Tree Days	Camp Sheldrick: Tree Planting		\$2,550			
Trans Canada Energy	Field Tablet					\$5,000
	Sub-Total	\$60,000	\$57,550	\$83,000	\$64,500	\$163,000
Human Resources Support - Fe	deral and Provincial	<del>_</del>				
Canada Ontario Job grant	Management Training	\$13,476				
Canada Ontario Job grant	Management Training		\$4,991			
Canada Park and Recreation	Summer Work experience	\$5,712				
Canada Parks and Recreation	Summer Experience Program		\$5,712			
Canada Parks and Recreation	Summer Experience Program		\$5,712			
Career Launch	Digital Tech Internship Program		\$15,000			
Career Launch	Digital Tech Internship Program		\$15,000			
Clean Technology	Digital Tech Internship Program			\$3,750		
Colleges and Institutes Canada	Training			\$7,500		





Funder	Program/Project	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Eco Canada	Coop program	\$5,000				
Eco Canada	Stem Internship Program	\$10,857				
Eco Canada	Co-op Program		\$5,000			
Eco Canada	Green Jobs Initiative Internship Program	\$4,000	\$11,000			
Eco Canada	Green Jobs Initiative Internship Program		\$12,500			
Eco Canada	Co-op Program		\$5,000			
Eco Canada	Green Jobs Initiative Internship Program		\$12,500			
Eco Canada	Internship Program			\$10,000		
Eco Canada	Student Work - Integrated Learning Co-op Program			\$24,402		
ECO Canada – Internship Program	Student and Recent Graduate Employment				\$20,000	
Human Resources and Stats Development Canada	Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters student	\$3,500				
Job Creation	Summer Students					\$24,280
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Summer Experience Program	\$7,609				
National Trust Canada	Young Canada Works	\$4,989				
National Trust Canada	Young Canada Works			\$2,110		
Service Canada	Canada Summer Jobs	\$1,680				
Service Canada	Canada Summer Jobs			\$3,920		
Service Canada-Ontario	Canada Ontario Job Grant		\$2,495			
Service Ontario	Canada Summer Jobs		\$1,960			
Service Ontario	Canada Summer Jobs		\$1,960			
	Sub-Total	\$56,823	\$98,830	\$51,682	\$52,960	\$24,280
	TOTAL	\$638,962	\$1,395,854	\$265,718	\$2,086,410	\$907,602



**To:** Fish and Wildlife Committee

From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 21, 2022

**Subject:** Request for Approval: 2023 Committee Meeting Schedule

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Fish and Wildlife Committee approve the 2023 Committee meeting schedule as presented.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

As per the Standing Committee Terms of Reference, all Standing Committees will meet at least four times per year, with one of these meetings being a Joint Meeting of all Standing Committees.

Staff recommend the following meeting schedule for 2022:

- February 28<sup>th</sup>
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Joint Standing Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m.)
- June 8<sup>th</sup>
- September 5<sup>th</sup>

Meetings will take place at 3:00 p.m. at the SNC office unless otherwise stated in the agenda package.

The Standing Committee Terms of Reference allows for additional meetings to be called if there is 75% concurrence of the Committee at which there is quorum.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

#### Compliance with Budget:

Committee expenses for the Fish and Wildlife Committee will be included in the 2023 SNC Budget to an upset limit of \$4,600/Committee.

## SNC Policy Adherence:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee membership and meeting schedule adheres to the SNC By-laws and SNC Standing Committee Terms of Reference.

Ronda Boutz,

Secretary-Treasurer.