

## Resolutions from Advisory Committees

### Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

1. Support the Need for Provincial Action on Salt Pollution from Road Salt

That we recommend to the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the following motion from the Ontario Road Salt Coalition be endorsed:

Whereas road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious or irreversible environmental and health damage from road salt; and

Whereas salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

Whereas the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

Whereas numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans; and

Whereas increased numbers of slips and falls claims, and other injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and

Whereas unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage, resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and

Whereas the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable contractor training/certification and government approved BMPs for salt application; and

Whereas many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but these often require updating in light of improved science and better salt management practices now available.

Therefore be it resolved that:

1. That Durham Region urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice management; and
2. That Durham Region urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and
3. That Durham Region commits to the reduction of the use of road salt as much as possible while maintaining safety on roads and sidewalks; and
4. That this resolution be sent to all municipalities in Durham Region, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), local MPPs, Conservation Ontario, Minister Andrea Khanjin (MECP), Interim Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP), Attorney General Doug Downey, and Premier Doug Ford.