



**Legislative Services**  
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October 7, 2025

Sent via email

Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 08, 2025 9:13 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

The Honourable Doug Downey, M.P.P., Attorney General, McMurtry-Scott Bldg., 11<sup>th</sup> Flr., 720 Bay St., Toronto, ON M7A 2S9, [Doug.Downey@ontario.ca](mailto:Doug.Downey@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, M.P.P., Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay St., Toronto, ON M7A 2J3, [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

**RE: Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority Motion 2025 – Town of Newmarket**

I am writing to advise you that at the Council meeting held on October 6, 2025, the Town of Newmarket Council adopted the following recommendations regarding the above referenced matter:

WHEREAS Chloride concentrations measured in Lake Simcoe have steadily increased since the 1970s and, if unchecked, could exceed the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Chronic Guideline by approximately 2069; and,

WHEREAS Chloride concentrations in urban tributaries are routinely above the Chronic Guideline, occasionally above the Acute Guideline and have recently exceeded the concentration of ocean water in one urban tributary, and continues to increase everywhere due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots; and,

WHEREAS According to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, these concentrations are lethal to some species of fish and benthic invertebrates, and decreasing the amount of winter salt use throughout the watershed is critical to the near-term health of urban tributaries and long-term health of Lake Simcoe; and,

WHEREAS A barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is the scarcity of trained and certified winter maintenance contractors; and,

WHEREAS A more substantial barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is a concern over liability; and,

WHEREAS Businesses in the winter maintenance sector are seeing insurance and legal costs escalate to the point where many have failed, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors; and,



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WHEREAS The limited liability framework in practice in New Hampshire is based on the Canadian Smart About Salt guidelines have been successfully defended in the higher courts.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Newmarket requests that the Attorney General of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, establish 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,

That the Town of Newmarket requests that technical standards and a Provincial regulatory framework should be established that limits liability for winter maintenance contractors following best practices to ensure public safety, business sustainability, and environmental protection; and,

That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed lead by example by ensuring staff and/or winter maintenance contractors that maintain municipal parking lots obtain certification through the Smart About Salt program as a condition of working for the municipality; and,

That this resolution be circulated to Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities and Lake Simcoe watershed members of Provincial Parliament; and,

That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed implement best management practices for municipal roads management; and,

That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed collaborate with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority on an outreach campaign to raise awareness of this issue, manage expectations from the public regarding salt usage, and inspire positive action.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Granat

Legislative Coordinator

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