

December 7, 2019

**Delivered by E-mail to the attached list;**

**Regarding Extreme Water Levels of the Upper St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario**

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) has experienced a disproportionate share of the burden from the extreme water levels of 2017 and 2019, resulting in significant damages and extreme hardships for a great many citizens. Current forecasts and projections are anticipating even higher water levels in the Great Lakes for the upcoming 2020 spring runoff. An additional 1 foot or more is very likely, which would result in catastrophic damages and extreme hardship for all inhabitants bordering the Great Lakes and in particular the GTA.

We urge you to use your influence to engage the International Joint Commission (IJC) and its International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSRLB) to immediately lower lake levels in the short window of time this is possible before winter and ice conditions set in.

Specifically, we request the following:

1. The IJC to use extraordinary measures to target an end of year Lake Ontario level of 244.4 feet above sea level. This will facilitate 1.2 feet of additional water from all uncontrollable supply sources and provide a buffer for unforeseen events.
2. The IJC to revisit the Plan 2014 in a transparent manner to review the authorization process and specific control actions needed to prevent and mitigate future Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River levels from reaching the recent unacceptable extreme levels.
3. The US State Department and the Privy Council of Canada to provide legal authority for a full time "Emergency Deviation" until the necessary improvements to Plan 2014 have been implemented.

Failure to deal with the extremely high water levels of the Upper St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario will result in potentially irreversible damages and hardships to a great many citizens, putting extreme demands on governments to repair and replace very valuable infrastructure and thereby diverting much needed funding from already committed projects.

We implore you to take action immediately as this an extremely urgent matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Johnson  
Co-chair of YQNA



Angelo Bertolas  
Co-chair of YQNA

Recipients:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)  
Minister of Transport Marc Garneau [marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca)  
Minister of Infrastructure & Communities Catherine McKenna [Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca)  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Francois-Phillip Champagne [Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca)  
Minister of Environment & Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson [Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca)  
Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair [Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca)  
Adam Vaughan MP [adam.vaughan.c1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:adam.vaughan.c1@parl.gc.ca)  
Nathaniel Erskine-Smith MP [Nathaniel.Erskine-Smith@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Nathaniel.Erskine-Smith@parl.gc.ca)  
James Maloney MP [James.Maloney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:James.Maloney@parl.gc.ca)  
Arif Virani MP [Arif.Virani@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Arif.Virani@parl.gc.ca)  
John McKay MP [john.mckay@parl.gc.ca](mailto:john.mckay@parl.gc.ca)  
Gary Anandasangaree MP [Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca)  
Julie Dabrusin MP [Julie.Dabrusin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Julie.Dabrusin@parl.gc.ca)

Ontario Premier Doug Ford [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)  
Rima Berns-Gown MPP [RBerns.Gown-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:RBerns.Gown-QP@ndp.on.ca)  
Christine Hogarth MPP [christine.hogarth@pc.ola.ca](mailto:christine.hogarth@pc.ola.ca)  
Chris Glover MPP [CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca)  
Bhutila Karpoche MPP [BKarpoche-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:BKarpoche-QP@ndp.on.ca)  
Doly Begum MPP [DBegum-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:DBegum-QP@ndp.on.ca)  
Mitzie Hunter MPP [mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)  
Vijay Thanigasalam MPP [vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.ca](mailto:vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.ca)  
Peter Tabuns MPP [tabunsp-qp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:tabunsp-qp@ndp.on.ca)

Mayor John Tory [mayor\\_tory@toronto.ca](mailto:mayor_tory@toronto.ca)  
Councillor Joe Cressy [joe.cressy@toronto.ca](mailto:joe.cressy@toronto.ca)  
Councillor Mark Grimes [councillor\\_grimes@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_grimes@toronto.ca)  
Councillor Paula Fletcher [pfletch@toronto.ca](mailto:pfletch@toronto.ca)  
Councillor Brad Bradford [councillor\\_bradford@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_bradford@toronto.ca)  
Councillor Gord Perks [gord.perks@toronto.ca](mailto:gord.perks@toronto.ca)  
Councillor Gary Crawford [gary.crawford@toronto.ca](mailto:gary.crawford@toronto.ca)  
Councillor Paul Ainslie [paul.ainslie@toronto.ca](mailto:paul.ainslie@toronto.ca)  
Councillor Jennifer McKelvie [jennifer.mckelvie@toronto.ca](mailto:jennifer.mckelvie@toronto.ca)

Ports Toronto/Billy Bishop Airport, Gene Cabral [gcabral@portstoronto.com](mailto:gcabral@portstoronto.com)  
Harbourfront Centre, Martin Kenneally, COO [mkenneally@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:mkenneally@harbourfrontcentre.com)  
WBIA, Tim Kocur [tkocur@waterfrontbia.com](mailto:tkocur@waterfrontbia.com)  
Waterfront Toronto, George Zegarac, CEO [gzegarac@waterfronttoronto.ca](mailto:gzegarac@waterfronttoronto.ca)  
Waterfront for All, Ed Hore [ejbhore@icloud.com](mailto:ejbhore@icloud.com)  
Toronto Region Board of Trade, Janet De Silva, CEO [contactus@bot.com](mailto:contactus@bot.com)