

Mayor and Council  
Town of Caledon  
October 4, 2024



RE: **Agenda Item 5.1, October 7, 2024**  
**Supplementary Aggregate Policy Study: Final Recommendation Report**

Dear Mayor and Council,

Further to correspondence submitted for your meeting of September 17, and as deputed at your meeting of September 24, we are very interested in discussing if and how our draft Municipal Charter for Watershed Security might be of service to the Town of Caledon and we request that you move a motion to facilitate that discussion.

Very briefly, the mission of the Ontario Headwaters Institute is to promote watershed security in Ontario, which we describe as the sound protection of our aquatic resources, thereby safeguarding regional ecological integrity, social wellbeing, and economic vitality.

The Municipal Charter for Watershed Security, which seeks to integrate land use and watershed planning at the municipal level and as attached below, is in draft mode through October as we seek feedback on it through a survey and contact with both a few Councils and locally active organizations.

As an organization highly motivated to help protect the Credit watershed, we think that the Charter may be of benefit to Caledon in order that the Town:

- Adheres to s 4.2 of the Provincial Planning Statement, which requires that municipalities “protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by...using the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning”;
- Has an integrated approach to overall development in Caledon, especially for the proposed 12 Bylaws and their prospective “holds”, which are currently not well described to nor considered adequate by many local organizations; and,
- **Fully consider the impact of aggregate operations on watershed health, including the maintenance of surface water flows, infiltration and exfiltration related to ground water, and water quality, especially as it relates to drinking water.**

As stated on September 24, the proposed Charter is a framework, meant to be flexible to a municipality’s priorities and resources. As such, it can provide both guidance to municipal officials and staff, as well as reassurance to community members that watershed security will not be sacrificed to development pressures.

We ask you to move a motion to refer the Charter for further discussion in the appropriate committee, for which we’d be available at your convenience.

Sincerely,  
*Andrew McCammon*  
Executive Director

*Draft – September 2024*



## **A Municipal Charter for Watershed Security in Ontario**

As Ontario municipalities deliver core services that impact the health of our waters, including those related to land use planning, drinking water, storm water, and sanitary sewage, and as Ontario's population and development pressures grow at a time when the climate and biodiversity crises require strategic direction, it is more important than ever that municipalities integrate land use and watershed planning.

A constructive step along this path would be for municipalities to develop a Charter for Watershed Security - the protection of our aquatic resources to safeguard regional ecological integrity, social wellbeing, and economic vitality.

Indeed, such a Charter might be the best way to ensure that municipalities meet their obligations under the Provincial Planning Statement to use the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for planning as well as to protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water.

The Charter could have the following elements:

- A commitment to integrate land use and watershed planning;
- Embracing a whole watershed approach to ensure that normal flows of clean water enter the municipality from upstream communities, as well as to assure the same for communities downstream;
- Undertaking a water resource inventory as well as an ecological land classification study and using the information to create both a natural heritage system strategy and a biodiversity strategy to identify and protect key ecological features and functions for local watershed health.
- Early direction to key municipal departments, such as economic development, permitting, transportation, and works, to integrate their land use planning responsibilities with watershed planning, including consideration of the impacts of climate change on local watersheds;
- Establishing watershed and/or sub-watershed targets, including restoration targets where necessary, for areas in natural heritage, wetlands, streamside vegetation, and urban canopies and greenspace;
- Ensuring before and after terrestrial and aquatic monitoring of the immediate impacts of specific development, including infrastructure, as described by a municipal protocol;
- Performing cumulative monitoring on a regular basis and implementing adaptive management to redress unacceptable conditions, and,
- Encouraging sound stewardship practices for all land in the municipality.

Comments and suggestions on this draft Charter are welcome through the end of October.