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September 27, 2017

Via Email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

Parks Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Attention: Honourable Catherine McKenna MP

Dear MP McKenna:

Re: Harvesting of Wild Rice – Williams Treaty

Please be advised that at its meeting held the 26th day of September 2017, the Council of the Township of Selwyn passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 2017 - 192 – Wild Rice Harvesting

Deputy Mayor Sherry Senis – Councillor Donna Ballantyne –

Whereas the Federal Government through Parks Canada and the seven First Nations of the Williams Treaty came together to form a wild rice harvesting working group in late 2015; and

Whereas the working group established a Terms of Reference to cover various matters related to wild rice that includes the management and harvesting of wild rice, public education of indigenous history and culture along Trent Severn Waterway, and related consultation; and

Whereas the development of a strategy to manage wild rice has proved to be complex and time consuming resulting in another year with no management plan; and

Whereas waterfront property owners on Pigeon, Chemong and Buckhorn Lakes are expressing extreme frustration over the lack of progress to address the mechanical harvesting of wild rice that is severely impacting access to the waterway and the enjoyment of their properties;

Mailing Address
PO Box 270
Bridgenorth
Ontario K0L 1H0

Tel: 705 292 9507
Fax: 705 292 8964

Now therefore the Township of Selwyn strongly urges the Federal Government through Parks Canada to bring forward the specific issue of mechanical harvesting of wild rice on Pigeon, Chemong and Buckhorn Lakes to the working group as an immediate item for resolution, specifically:

- To establish a method for harvesting the wild rice that considers the needs of adjacent waterfront property owners as the current mechanical method of using an air boat generates excessive noise that is disturbing to waterfront property owners and is affecting the enjoyment of their property, and
- To establish time limits on mechanical harvesting by limiting the hours per day for harvesting and establishing no harvesting on Sundays; and

Further that Parks Canada continue to consider applications for aquatic vegetation removal in this area to allow waterfront property owners to make use of the waterway; and

That a copy of this Resolution be provided to M.P. Maryam Monsef with a request that she advance an immediate resolution through the working group to address this very specific circumstance and ensure that another season does not pass without a plan that addresses the mechanical harvesting of rice on Pigeon, Chemong and Buckhorn Lakes; and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Councils of the City of Kawartha Lakes and Municipality of Trent Lakes whose municipal boundaries border Pigeon, Chemong and Buckhorn Lakes.

Councillor Anita Locke - yes

Deputy Mayor Sherry Senis – yes

Mayor Mary Smith – yes

Councillor Donna Ballantyne - yes

Carried.

Council received 27 emails as well as a petition signed by 89 area residents related to the mechanical harvesting of wild rice. The petition, along with a few samples of the emails sent to Council, are included in this correspondence to provide an understanding of the frustration residents are expressing as a result of the noise and the impact to the waterway from the mechanical harvesting of wild rice. The progress of the working group preparing the management plan for wild rice has been slow. Residents are growing more impatient. An action plan is critical and residents need the Federal government to devote time and resources to address wild rice management and more immediately the mechanical harvesting of wild rice on Pigeon, Chemong and Buckhorn Lakes.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and all stakeholders look forward to an action plan prior to the commencement of the 2018 wild rice harvesting season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Chittick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Angela Chittick
Clerk

Encl: Petition from Residents
Various Email Received

c.c. Maryam Monsef, MP
City of Kawartha Lakes Council
Municipality of Trent Lakes Council
Parks Canada - Executive Director of Waterways Darlene Upton
Trent Severn Waterway – Director, Ontario Waterways Unit – Jewel Cunningham
Larry Wood - Save Pigeon Lake