

OFFICE OF THE WARDEN
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www.hastingscounty.com

December 20, 2022

Honourable Graydon Smith
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Whitney Block,
99 Wellesley St W,
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Smith & Minister Clark,

As you know, a tornado devastatingly tore through large parts of Hastings County on July 24th. The amount of damage and loss was staggering. The residents, property owners and local municipalities have all struggled to recover but more resources are urgently required. I am writing to you on behalf of Hastings County Council and our 14 local municipalities to seek your support for the needed recovery efforts.

There are countless amounts of trees that were leveled by the storm that have yet to be removed and this is creating a high risk of a fire that poses a threat to public safety and pose a serious safety risk to hunters and others who seek to travel through the area. Expecting the local property owners or community groups to do the cleanup is untenable and beyond their capacities.

We, along with our member municipalities, have reached out for support several times to your Government since this storm hit and have not received, in our respectful opinion, the appropriate level of assistance to be able to mitigate the risk to our residents. We are requesting that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing make a real effort to assist with storm rehabilitation support. Our member municipalities are unable to manage this scale of recovery on their own and require additional resources.

We would be pleased to arrange a hands-on visit for you and your staff to come and see for yourselves the scale of destruction. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Mullin".

Bob Mullin, Warden
Hastings County

cc. Hon Todd Smith, M.P.P – Bay of Quinte
Ric Bresee, M.P.P. - Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Hastings County Council