



SMALL URBAN GTHA MAYORS CALL ON PROVINCE TO REMOVE SECTION 6 WITHIN BILL 229

**For Immediate Release
December 8, 2020**

Today the Small Urban GTHA Mayors met for the first time to discuss several issues affecting each of our communities from Covid-19, pandemic recovery to the removal of Schedule 6 within Bill 229.

Section 6 within Bill 229 is being considered in the legislature today without any consultation with Conservation Authorities or Heads of Council.

If passed, the Province will have the ability to issue any permits directly to applicants that could threaten environmentally sensitive protected lands and wetlands.

Conservation Authorities are in place to assess development applications on a case by case basis using scientific measures that will positively impact and protect our naturally sensitive areas.

We are calling on the Province to immediately remove Section 6 of Bill 229 and instead, begin a dialogue and consultation with Heads of Council, and Conservation Authorities on issues and concerns impacting our communities across the Province. Open consultation and dialogue between our levels of government have proved to be a valuable exercise to reach our mutually common goals in the past and we believe the contents of Section 6 are significant and require more consultation.

Moving forward The Small Urban GTHA Mayors will be meeting on a regular basis to discuss and respond to issues affecting our communities as a collective including Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19, broadband, and the greenbelt.

It is imperative that our voices are heard by all levels of government in order to best serve our residents and protect our communities.

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Interim Chair

Small Urban GTHA Mayors

