

**Conservation  
ONTARIO**  
*Natural Champions*

September 7, 2006

The Secretary, Canadian Section  
International Joint Commission  
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa ON K1P 6K6

Via Email: [commission@ottawa.ijc.org](mailto:commission@ottawa.ijc.org)

**Re: Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study: Options for Managing Water Levels and Flows**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above report. I am writing on behalf of Conservation Ontario, the provincial organization representing Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities who deliver programs and services that protect the province's land and water resources on a watershed basis. At the August 28, 2006 meeting of Conservation Ontario Council the following resolution (#38/06) was passed:

*WHEREAS the International Joint Commission established in December 2000 the International Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Study Board to comprehensively evaluate options for regulating levels and flows in the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River System beyond the current plan 1958-D which has been in effect since October, 1963.*

*WHEREAS the Study Board adopted a Vision to contribute to the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River System and a Goal – to identify flow regulation plans and criteria that best serve the range of affected interests, and address climatic conditions in the basin.*

*WHEREAS the Study Board was directed to consider six interests – 3 interests under Plan 1958D (commercial navigation, municipal – industrial – domestic water uses and hydroelectric power generation) and 3 new interests (wetlands/environmental, recreational boating/tourism and coastal processes).*

Newmarket Ontario  
Email:

*WHEREAS the International Joint Commission has initiated a five-step decision process and is requesting by September 15, 2006 public comment on the Lake Ontario St Lawrence River Study to assist them in their deliberations towards a draft decision.*

*WHEREAS Conservation Ontario advocates the need for implementation of "integrated watershed approaches" and the continued preservation and restoration efforts of the environment to ensure the sustainability of the Great Lakes Basin.*

*AND WHEREAS Conservation Ontario will have further opportunity after development of a draft decision to participate in Commission hearings on the draft decision.*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Conservation Ontario strongly support Plan B+ – Balanced Environmental as the basis for regulation of out flows from Lake Ontario consistent with the Study Board's vision, goal and guidelines.*

*THAT predicted small increases in shoreline erosion and flooding under Plan B+ be managed, as discussed in the study, with measures employed by various levels of government, including the conservation authorities regulation of development within hazardous lands.*

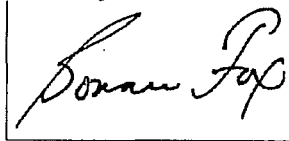
*THAT Conservation Ontario supports the Adaptive Management recommendations as critical in maintaining the investment and benefit of data collection, scientific analysis and plan evaluation models to monitoring and performance review of a new operating plan and making informed adjustments in future.*

*THAT Conservation Ontario and the 12 Conservation Authorities along the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence system will continue to support the Adaptive Management Approach and recommendations by providing monitoring information, analysis and commenting on future plan adjustments.*

*AND THAT this recommendation be forwarded to the International Joint Commission.*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

Sincerely,



Bonnie Fox  
Policy and Planning Specialist

c.c. CAO/General Managers, All Conservation Authorities

Newmarket Ontario  
| Email: