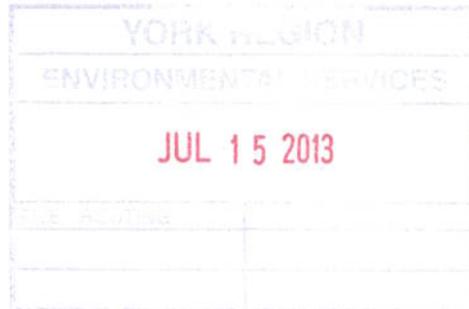




Canadian Federation of University Women
ONTARIO COUNCIL



Ms Adrian Coombs,
Senior Project Manager
Environmental Services
Capital Planning & Delivery
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Ms. Coombs,

The Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW Ontario Council) endorses the attached letter, and would like to express our thanks and support for the work you have done in planning to install a new state-of-the-art Sewage Treatment Plant as a vital component of your Upper York Sewage Solutions.

As members since 2004 of the Great Lakes Advisory Panel, CFUW Ontario Council has been very concerned with the implementation of our obligations under the Great Lakes Annex Agreement.

We appreciate the way your plan respects the Lake Simcoe Protection Act by removing phosphorous and even pharmaceuticals from waste water. And we are pleased that after much discussion of options you have found a way to avoid the increased Intrabasin Transfer of waste water by instituting the Innovative Water Treatment Technologies.

Your efforts as a Region will be used as an example of Best Practice across the province.

Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women is composed of 55 clubs comprised of graduates living in urban and rural areas across Ontario. We are non-partisan, non-sectarian and we are totally member funded. Our members are active in public affairs, advocating on public education, justice, health and environmental issues as well as the status of women and human rights. Ontario Council is part of the Canadian Federation of University Women and has links to the International Federation of University Women.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Robertson. President
CFUW Ontario Council

cc Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment
Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources



October 30,2012

Ms Adrian Coombs,
Senior Project Manager
The Regional Municipality of York
Environmental Services
Capital Planning & Delivery
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Ms. Coombs,

Re; York Region's proposed sewage treatment plant and water reclamation facility

We are writing today to express our support of the Upper York Sewage Solutions progress to date and to encourage you to continue to demonstrate your willingness to consider innovative and best practices choices for York Region, the Great Lakes, and Lake Simcoe as you continue to refine your plans.

We also commend you on the community engagement efforts undertaken throughout the environmental assessment process. We recognize and support your choice of the alternative "Innovative Water Treatment Technologies" over the remaining three identified alternatives of "do nothing", "discharge to Lake Ontario" and "discharge to Lake Simcoe". The choice to further develop the Innovative Water Treatment Technologies reflects an important commitment to preventing further Intra-Basin Transfers.

When Ontario signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement in December 2005, the environmental community supported the Agreement as a way of preventing water diversions outside of the Great Lakes Basin, unless stringent environmental criteria are met. Only Ontario has the ability to divert significant amounts of water from one Great Lake's watershed to another; and, as such, the Agreement also contemplates that Ontario implement similar "prohibit unless stringent environmental criteria are met" controls on so-called Intra-Basin Transfers.

As such, we see York Region's decision to choose the Innovative Water Treatment Technologies alternative as respecting the spirit of the Agreement and fully support your decision to not increase your Intra-Basin Transfer. The water supplied to the area that will be newly serviced, as we understand it, will be entirely sourced from local groundwater. In addition, your plans to disconnect the north Aurora and Newmarket areas from the "big pipe" south to the Duffins Creek Sewage Treatment Plant and thereby reduce that Intra-Basin Transfer by sending wastewater north to your proposed Water Reclamation Centre is good news. As we understand it, you will in total be drawing 40 million litres per day (MLD) local groundwater and returning 40 MLD within the same Lake Simcoe watershed.

We also acknowledge that the choices you are making at this stage in the environmental assessment are the Water Reclamation Centre Site and the Wastewater Conveyance Route. As you continue your community engagement on the specifics of the technology to be employed, the offsetting of phosphorus planned, and the conveyance route, we hope that you will continue to be open to employing best practices and considering innovative options that can achieve the best possible outcome for Lake Simcoe's watershed.

We look forward to seeing more details regarding your plans and finding out how you are able to address concerns that are related to the site choice and conveyance route, as well and consideration of how to make decisions that will

happen in the future (such as ensuring developments include green infrastructure, are location efficient, etc.) in order to ensure phosphorus loadings in Lake Simcoe continue to be addressed.

Sincerely,

Mary Muter, Great Lakes Section, Sierra Club Ontario

c.c Hon. Jim Bradley,
Minister of the Environment,
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5