



June 30, 2011

Kimberley Kitteringham  
Town Clerk  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Blvd.  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

Dear Town of Markham,

Further to my presentation to council on Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, I respectfully request your support for the ongoing work of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation by way of resolution by council and/or letter of support.

As you know, the future of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation is in jeopardy - our ability to work with your council and others depends on winning renewed investment from the Province of Ontario.

The Foundation's mandate, based on the 2001 Oak Ridges Moraine Act and subsequent Conservation Plan, is to preserve, protect and restore the environmental integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Today, more than ever, the headwaters on the Oak Ridge Moraine are understood as vital to the Moraine's inhabitants.

The Conservation Plan is clear, as is the Foundation, that the Town of Markham and your colleagues in municipalities across the Moraine are key implementers in this headwaters recovery mission. For the past eight years, we have been proud to work with you and more than seventy partners in delivering our shared mission to restore headwaters on the Oak Ridges Moraine. But now, we need your important support to win renewed investment for the Foundation's work.

While much has been accomplished, much remains to be done. The Foundation and its Stakeholders prepared a ten year strategic review of progress and essential work needed. We have a road map forward that highlights vulnerable aquifers to be protected and the forests, streams and grasslands where strategic restoration will produce the most effective results.

The Foundation's Business Plan seeks renewed investment of \$11 million over four years from the Province of Ontario to deliver the essential headwaters recovery mission in partnership with your municipality and others across the Oak Ridges Moraine.

May we count on your council's support in our quest for renewed investment from the Province? Your important support should be expressed through a formal resolution and/or letter to decision makers, Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister Jim Bradley, the minister charged with the Foundation's mandate.

Thank you for your attention to the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation's request for time sensitive moral support. Please do call me for any detail I can provide that will make it possible to gain council's important support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kim Gavine".

Kim Gavine  
Executive Director  
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation

**Draft Resolution for consideration**

**Whereas**, the Oak Ridges Moraine crosses 32 municipalities together identified as key implementing agencies for the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and its performance review for 2015;

**Whereas**, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation has performed its role as strategic hub for the important headwaters recovery efforts of municipalities on the Oak Ridges Moraine;

**Whereas**, based on its initial investment of \$15 million, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation has efficiently granted \$14.1 million to 177 projects on the Oak Ridges Moraine delivering:

- 1,000 acres of conservation lands restored through stewardship projects such as tree planting, wetland creation, habitat management, prairie restoration and stream restoration.
- 5,582 acres of conservation lands protected through acquisition, donation and conservation easements
- 75 km of new trail created resulting in the completion of a continuous east/west recreation trail known as the Oak Ridges Trail
- More than 7,500 school children being educated about the importance of the Oak Ridges Moraine, particularly relating to drinking water
- Knowledge gaps being filled by research undertaken on the Oak Ridges Moraine

**Whereas**, initial investment has been successfully expended by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation with leverage of \$35.8 million in funds resulting in \$50 million worth of essential headwaters recovery on the Oak Ridges Moraine;

**Whereas**, requests for renewed investment from the Province of Ontario have been ignored to-date with closure looming for the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and termination of its mission for headwaters recovery on the Moraine;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Town of Markham urge the Provincial Government to renew investment in the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation in the amount of \$11 million to continue to lead the mission for headwaters recovery on the Oak Ridges Moraine.