

May 9, 2025

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Council Resolution - Councillor D. McCabe re: Salt Pollution

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on May 6, 2025, approved the following motion:

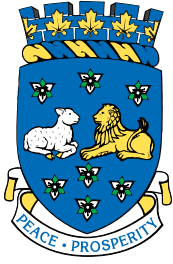
WHEREAS road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious or irreversible environmental and health damage from road salt; and

WHEREAS salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS the Region of Waterloo, in collaboration with local municipalities, is actively attempting to mitigate salt pollution using existing policies, programs and site design measures that would be significantly more effective with supporting Provincial legislation; and

WHEREAS the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

WHEREAS numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government



**approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans;
and**

**WHEREAS increased numbers of slips and falls claims, and other
injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt
applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and**

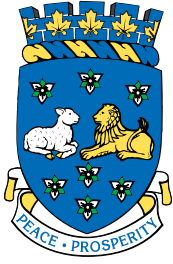
**WHEREAS unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive
for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage,
resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for
municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and**

**WHEREAS the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape
Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited
liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable
contractor training/certification and government-approved BMPs for salt
application; and**

**WHEREAS many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but
these often require updating considering improved science and better salt
management practices now available.**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The Region of Waterloo urges the province of Ontario to work on a
priority basis with key stakeholders to develop limited liability
legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set
of provincially-endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice
management; and**
- 2. The Region of Waterloo urges the province of Ontario to create and
fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province
and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater
ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and**
- 3. This resolution be sent to all municipalities in the Regional
Municipality of Waterloo, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
(AMO), local MPPs, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO),**



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

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Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus (OBCM), Landscape Ontario, Conservation Ontario, the Minister of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), the Minister of Red Tape Reduction, the Attorney General, and Premier Doug Ford.

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact William Short, Regional Clerk/Director, Council & Administrative Services, via email at RegionalClerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

Legislative Services Specialist
Region of Waterloo

cc: All municipalities in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), local MPPs, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus (OBCM), Landscape Ontario, Conservation Ontario, the Minister of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), the Minister of Red Tape Reduction and the Attorney General