

Dear Chris and Martin;

Thank you for your open letter. As a member of Kawartha Protect Our Water, (KPOW) I know how frustrating it can be communicating with all the levels of government involved. I commend your efforts and time spent on the extremely important task of improving and protecting the watershed.

New Democrats will collaborate with provinces, territories, Aboriginal governments, environmental and conservation organizations, and concerned citizens to develop and implement an ambitious, integrated conservation plan to protect Canada's ecosystems, wildlife, and wilderness heritage. We will accelerate progress on completing the national parks system and exceed the minimum target of setting aside 12% of Canada's landmass for conservation, while working with stakeholders in support of the long-term conservation vision of protecting half of Canada's land and water. We commit to timely delivery of our obligations under the federal Species at Risk Act, including ensuring that decisions are science-based and taken in consultation with all concerned parties.

New Democrats will once again bring forward Bill C-311, The Climate Change Accountability Act, which was passed in the House of Commons and then dismissed by the unelected Senate. Bill C-469 an Environmental Bill of Rights was and will again be brought to the House of Commons by the NDP.

My commitment to your organization is to work with you, other organizations and all levels of government to make gains for the Trent-Severn Waterway and all water courses in Haliburton-Kawartha-Lakes Brock. It will be necessary to also include officials of other ridings and municipalities as the impacts reach much farther than Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock.

We must ensure each step we take to improve one issue does not create a new problem or further negatively impact an existing problem. No doubt this is a very complex issue with many components. Working together the appropriate solutions will be found. As far as funding, I can only commit to bring this to the table and negotiate solutions and funding with the appropriate ministers. The, "It's all about the Water" report is helpful and should be considered.

I again thank you for time, effort and commitment to the Trent River Watershed and the environment.

Sincerely,

Lyn Edwards, NDP Federal Candidate
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock