



John Tory
Mayor

April 2, 2019

Chair and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

RE: City of Toronto's Stormwater Management Program

Dear Chair Pasternak and members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

As you know, Toronto is a beautiful city with a beautiful waterfront.

Lake Ontario is the 13th largest body of fresh water in the world and we have to do all we can to ensure that it, and our entire waterfront, are protected.

Right now, when a major storm hits our city, our wastewater system goes into overdrive to prevent major flooding. As the water rushes in, our current system pushes wastewater overflow, basically raw sewage, into the lake when it reaches a certain threshold – preventing it from rushing back up sewers and into basements. Poor water quality especially in the Don River, Inner Harbour and Taylor-Massey Creek, are as a result of combined sewer overflow (CSO) and stormwater runoff.

It is an unacceptable choice - sewage-tainted water in basements or in Lake Ontario.

City Staff are hard at work to implement a plan to correct this problem. It will ensure that the wastewater dumped into the lake will be as close to zero as we can get. Currently, this plan is scheduled to be completed some twenty years from now.

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Just as governments took action in the past to address acid rain, smog days and other pollution, I believe now is the time for us to be bold and make changes so our lake remains clean and safe.

This is why I support our staff bringing forward a plan to cut this time in half, cleaning our water in ten years rather than twenty years. Our staff have the expertise to do this, but they can't do it alone.

I believe it is appropriate for your committee to lead this charge and usher through the changes necessary to put this plan into action. I have also begun discussions with the other governments about partnering with us to get this done much faster.

Recommendation:

1. Infrastructure and Environment Committee direct the General Manager of Toronto Water to report in Q2 2019 on a plan to accelerate the City's Wet Weather Flow Master Plan to eliminate wastewater from Toronto's clean water ways, including Lake Ontario.
2. Infrastructure and Environment Committee direct the General Manager in the same report to outline the range of federal and provincial infrastructure programs which would upon application, assist Toronto with the funding of the accelerated Wet Weather Flow Master Plan.

I know you share in my determination to make Toronto as clean as possible for this and future generations.

Thank you for adding this letter to the committee agenda and for your ongoing work on this important file.

Sincerely,

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto