



Joe Cressy 周凱捷

City Councillor | Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

October 17, 2019

Infrastructure and Environment Committee
City Hall, Committee Room 1
100 Queen St W
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members,

Re: IE8.5 Update on Flood Mitigation and Damage Repair for Toronto's Waterfront and Toronto Island Park (Ward 3, 4, 10, 14, 19, 20)

The growing climate crisis has been acutely felt on the Toronto Islands, who have experienced two record-breaking flooding events in just 3 years, in both 2017 and 2019. In the era of a growing climate emergency, an annual sandbagging effort cannot be a long-term solution to protecting the Toronto Islands.

Following the 2017 flooding event, the City partnered with the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority (TRCA) to both review conditions, and plan for the future. In June, the TRCA released a Flood Characterization Report, Flood Risk Assessment Report, Flood Mapping and critically, a Flood Mitigation Alternatives Report, which evaluated structural options to mitigate flood risk in the long-term. After almost 2 years, these long-awaited studies, were a critical step in identifying the long-term work needed to protect the Islands from the growing impact of climate change.

The Flood Mitigation Alternatives Report prepared by the TRCA presents conceptual designs for 6 projects on Toronto Islands to protect Toronto Water facilities, municipal road infrastructure, City park land, and residential communities. The Report identifies that next steps will include confirming and initiating the regulatory requirements (including Environmental Assessment), determining the level of acceptable risk and priority areas, conducting site investigations and engineering analyses to assess the feasibility of the conceptual designs, and developing preliminary and final designs. The estimated cost of the site investigations and future studies is approximately \$550,000. In order to proceed with this work, the TRCA will need to confirm funding in order to do so.

The City has declared a climate emergency, and has committed to accelerating both climate actions and adaptation. In this context, we must advance to the next stage of work to adapt the Toronto Islands to the realities of climate change as soon as possible. This includes advancing the next phase of studies as indicated by the TRCA, and commencing the Conservation Authority Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control (Class EA) required for the development and implementation of flood mitigation alternatives.

In just three years, we have seen two record-breaking Lake level events that have heavily impacted the Toronto Islands – and, we know we will continue to see more. We cannot proceed without a clear



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path forward as we move closer to the 2020 season. It is critical that recommendations on the next steps for flood mitigation are considered by Council as soon as possible.

As the local Councillor representing the Toronto Islands, and the waterfront from Ontario Place to the Don River, I respectfully request that the Committee consider the following recommendation:

Recommendation:

The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the TRCA, report directly to the October 29th and 30th meeting of City Council with:

- a. Recommendations to advance next steps associated with the implementation of long-term flood mitigation alternatives on the Toronto Islands as soon as possible, including but not limited to initiating the required Conservation Authority Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control (Class EA), and an outline of the steps and timelines.
- b. An update on projects related to Toronto Islands flood mitigation and damage repair, both short and long term, either funded, scheduled or underway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Cressy', with a long, sweeping underline.

Joe Cressy