



Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition
Via Claire Malcolmson, member,
and Executive Director of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

June 20, 2025

Re: Toronto City Council Agenda for June 25 - 27, 2025

Salt Pollution, item # 22.15

Dear Toronto Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition, a collection of groups from Niagara to Sudbury who have taken up the decades-long effort to reduce salt pollution of our freshwater. Salt pollution is not something we can delay and hope that future generations can work out. It is extremely slow, expensive, or impossible to remove salt from freshwater.

We are in support of Councilor Dianne Saxe's motion. We are grateful to Ms. Saxe for her leadership on this file today, and in the past as Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

Our Ask

Since late 2023 Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition has been raising awareness of the impacts of salt pollution to freshwater ecosystems and the economies they support. We have been advocating alongside Landscape Ontario for reform to the liability regime for the Snow and Ice management sector. We have embarked on a municipal resolution campaign, where municipal Councils pass motions that ask Ontario to:

- Work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially-endorsed standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) for snow and ice management; and
- 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.

Support for the resolution

This year, twelve municipalities have passed motions similar to Ms. Saxe's today: The District of Muskoka, Town of Georgina, City of Waterloo, Township of Malahide, North Perth, City of Sudbury, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, City of Cambridge, Municipality of Killarney and Bradford West Gwillimbury, Town of Bracebridge, and Township of Addington Highlands. Please join their ranks!

Impacts

Supporting changes to the liability regime for the Snow and Ice Management sector as recommended by Ms. Saxe will have the following impacts:

- Reduced claims against property owners and salt applicators who conform to prescribed sector best management practices
- Reduced costs for municipal contracting of salt applicators
- Reduced cost of eroded infrastructure and salt-damaged trees
- Reduced pollution of Ontario streams, lakes, and aquifers
- Reduced stress on zooplankton and freshwater ecosystems.

We appreciate your support of this timely campaign.

Yours in water protection,
The Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition
c/o



Claire Malcolmson
OSPC Coalition Member
Executive Director, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition
RescueLakeSimcoeCoalition@gmail.com
647-267-7572