



Received by the infrastructure
and Environment Committee on
June 9, 2025

SALT FACTS MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN

ONTARIO SALT POLLUTION
COALITION, 2024 – 2025



OUR ASK

- The City of Toronto urges the province of Ontario to work urgently 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
- The City of Toronto 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
- The City of Toronto commits to the reduction of the use of road salt as much as possible while maintaining safety on roads, parking lots and sidewalks; and
- This resolution be sent to all municipalities in the GTA, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), local MPPs, Conservation Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Water Association, Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP), Attorney General Doug Downey, and Premier Doug Ford.



ONTARIO LEADS CANADA IN SALT POLLUTION

- Ontario is responsible for 2.2 of the 5 million tonnes of salt applied in Canada.
- “Overall, Chloride concentrations in the streams monitored increased by approximately 2-fold from the 1960s to [2022]”
- “... lakes with the highest Chloride concentrations were commonly situated near urban centres, adjacent to highways, and tended to be in more populated regions of the province.”



WHAT WE ARE DOING ISN'T WORKING

CTC (Credit Valley-Toronto and Region - Central Lake Ontario) Source Protection Region Discussion Paper, March 2024:

- “It is not expected that current salting policies will have a significant impact in reduction of salt trends.”
- “Risk Management Plans to manage the salt issue do not appear to be having the desired effect & take a great deal of municipal resources.”
- “Until incentive programs that reduce liability.....to ensure safety but consider the environment are enacted, no significant change will occur and sodium & chloride in surface and groundwater will continue to rise”.

OPPORTUNITY TO REGULATE SNOW AND ICE MANAGEMENT SECTOR IN ONTARIO

- Roughly 11% of salt is applied by private sector on commercial parking lots (Lake Simcoe)
- Insurance costs are keeping some out of the sector
- Crisis when Town of Blue Mountains got no bids on tender to clear snow and ice
- Ontario appears keen – but moving slowly – we need your help!



Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association · [Follow](#)

November 3, 2023 · 🌐

Representatives of Landscape Ontario's Snow and Ice Sector Group gathered at Queen's Park in Toronto on October 24 to advocate on behalf of those who keep our roads, sidewalks and parking lots safe each winter.

The day was a success, with Premier Doug Ford and ministries across the board showing support to the cause.

The sector group is asking the provincial government to enact a regulatory framework for snow and ice removal to create safer working conditions, foster a mor... [See more](#)



**Successful day
for snow and ice
contractors at
Queen's Park**

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Green for Life!



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INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LANDSCAPE ONTARIO IS ASKING FOR LIMITED LIABILITY



- A year-round approach that involves removal of hazards before winter.
- “A regulated snow and ice management system supported by a legal framework that protects certified contractors who can prove compliance would allow Snow Management Sector (SMS) operators to make improvements in the management of salt and accompanying environmental concerns.”
- “The changes being sought only create an improved system for site analysis, elimination of hazards, and introduces a requirement for site specific protocols. At the core of the changes being sought is improvement of the procurement process and salt reduction concurrently.”

■ III. Policy Recommendation

Landscape Ontario wishes to achieve the following goals through legislative reform, the establishment of technical standards, and creation of a regulatory framework:

- Create safe conditions for Ontarians while respecting the natural environment;
- Reform the liability system by balancing risk to all involved in site management in winter;
- Establish a regulatory framework for snow and ice management in Ontario;
- Establish the parameters for defining reasonable risk.



Government
of Canada

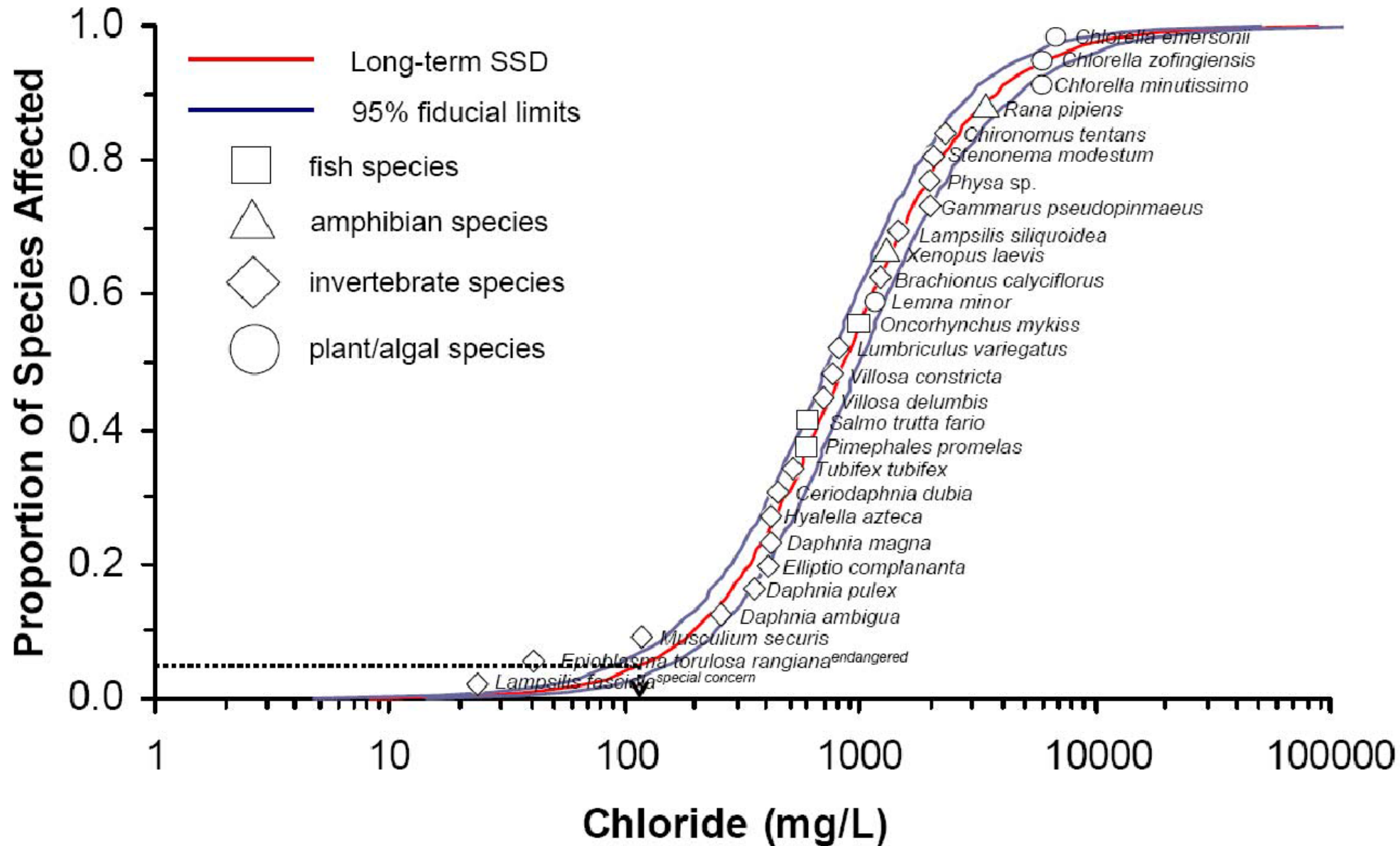
Environment and Natural Resources

2001 Assessment Report of Road Salts

“...it is clear from available information that there is a reasonable probability that road salts may be having an immediate or long-term harmful effect on some Canadian surface water organisms, terrestrial vegetation and wildlife and may also constitute a danger to the environment on which life depends through its impacts on aquatic systems and soils and terrestrial habitats.”

“Thus, road salts that contain inorganic chloride salts should be considered "toxic" under CEPA* 1999 because of tangible threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.”

* Canadian Environmental Protection Act



The Canadian Water Quality Guideline says most aquatic life is protected below 120 mg/L of Chloride

BUT 5 LOCAL SPECIES OF *DAPHNIA* PROVED THE GUIDELINE WAS SUSPECT FOR THE SOFT WATER OF MUSKOKA LAKES

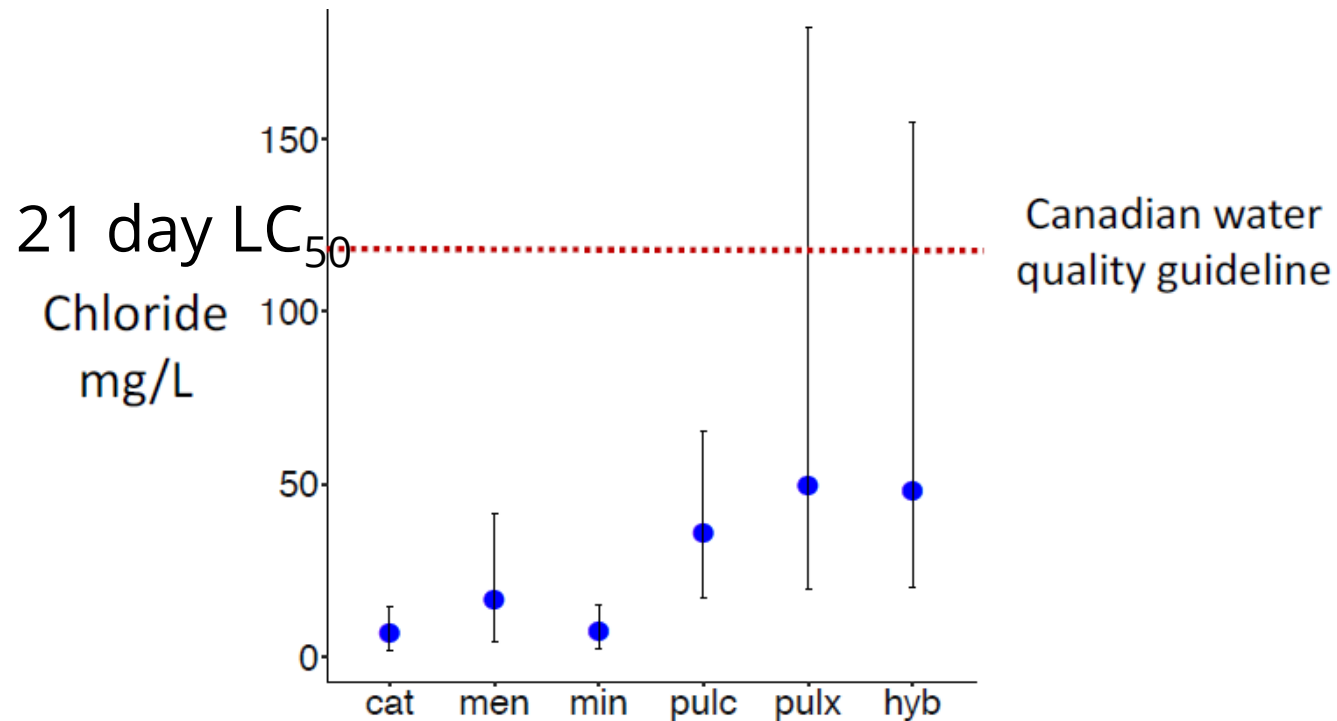
Research conducted by:



Dr.
Arnott



Dr. Delis-Salgado



● = *Daphnia* species that die at Chloride levels below the Canadian Water Quality Guideline in the soft water of Muskoka lakes.

ROAD SALT & DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

- Application, handling & storage of salt is a prescribed threat under Clean Water Act
 - Policies must be developed to manage “issues” and “significant threats” to municipal drinking water wells
- Orangeville and Georgetown well systems have thousands of significant salt threats over an area of 50 sq km (Credit Valley Source Protection Area)
- Policies are a mixture of:
 - Prohibitions on new parking lots/salt storage;
 - Mandatory Risk Management Plans - negotiated between property owner and municipality;
 - Non-mandatory actions by Province (BMPs, contractor licensing).



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 - “Until incentive programs that reduce liability.....to ensure safety but consider the environment are enacted, no significant change will occur and sodium & chloride in surface and groundwater will continue to rise”.
- Conclusion: the limited liability regime being requested by L.O. & OSPC should significantly benefit Source Water Protection.



HIDDEN COSTS OF SALT

- Public infrastructure
- Fresh water for recreation, swimming, commercial uses
- Freshwater for drinking
- Aquatic life & food chain effects
- Boots and paws
- Cars



One of the cities libraries entrances. Salt plays a role in this

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THANK YOU

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[HTTPS://SALTCOALITION.CA/](https://saltcoalition.ca/)