

Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,  
de la Protection de la nature et des  
Parcs

Office of the Minister

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357-2021-2619

Dan Cozzi, P.Eng.  
Executive Director  
Municipal Engineers Association  
Email: [dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca](mailto:dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca)

Dear Dan Cozzi:

Thank you for sending the letter co-signed by the Municipal Engineers Association, the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario, Ontario Public Works Association, Ontario Water Works Association and the Ontario Home Builders Association regarding the ministry's initiative to modernize the environmental assessment program, including the proposed amendments to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. I am pleased to hear about the continued support of efforts to modernize the environmental assessment process for municipalities.

Our modernization efforts have been focused on ensuring strong environmental oversight while reducing delays on infrastructure projects that matter most to Ontario communities, considering the input of local communities, and focusing on projects that have the highest impact to the environment. Ministry staff have updated me on the ministry's ongoing work with the Municipal Engineers Association on the proposed amendments and I wanted to thank you for your continued support through consultation as well. I understand that members of the Municipal Engineers Association have participated in meetings with my staff and Indigenous communities, presenting materials and assisted by answering questions both in the meeting and written responses.

The ministry received a number of questions from Indigenous communities throughout the consultation period on various aspects of the proposed amendments to the class environmental assessments, including the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. We are currently consulting with Indigenous communities on how archeological resources will be considered in the context of the proposed exemptions to the class environmental assessments and how the ministry is considering low risk as part of the ministry's review of the proposals.

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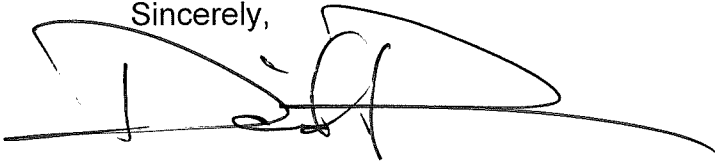
Dan Cozzi  
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After the comment period and any other information requests have been fulfilled, the ministry will begin to make decisions on the proposed class environmental assessments, including the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

In addition to our work on the proposed amendments to the class environmental assessments, the ministry has begun work on the development of a streamlined municipal regulation that will set out the projects that will be subject to the streamlined environmental assessment provisions of the amended *Environmental Assessment Act* (Part II.4) and the process that these projects must follow. We will transition from a patchwork of 10 class environmental assessment processes to modernized streamlined regulations that will eliminate duplication and provide clear expectations regarding consultation and defined timelines while maintaining environmental protections. As you know, in April 2021, the ministry hosted webinars for municipalities and other municipal stakeholders, including the Municipal Engineers Association, to draw on their expertise and seek their advice on development of the draft regulation.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide feedback on our efforts to modernize the environmental assessment program. We will keep you informed as we continue our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Piccini', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Piccini  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs