

July 20th, 2017

Ms. Karen Clark
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Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you again for your presentation at the Regional Resilience Workshop on May 11th, 2017. The workshop brought together all levels of government, academia and non-government partners to explore how a Regional Resilience Collaborative could advance climate change adaptation planning and implementation by recognizing the inter-dependencies of shared sectors (ex. transportation, natural gas, telecommunications, etc).

We commend the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's leadership on mitigating climate change demonstrated through the Climate Change Action Plan and Cap and Trade System. As adaptation practitioners, we look forward to working with the Ministry on the development of the update to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

We would like to acknowledge and support the direction the Ministry has identified relating to the upcoming Climate Change Adaptation Plan, such as:

- Including many provincial ministries in the update and implementation of the Plan;
- Recognizing inclusion through a multi-sectoral stakeholder consultation process, increasing integration of climate considerations into sector-specific programs and policies, and subsequent capacity building measures to ensure understanding and compliance;
- Raising understanding amongst the public and key stakeholders on the impacts of climate change and the value proposition for increasing resilience to climate change impacts;
- Increasing the municipal role in implementing resiliency approaches within their jurisdictions and acknowledging the need for guidance and capacity building for municipalities, particularly for northern, indigenous and rural communities; and
- Establishing a **Climate Modelling Collaborative** to standardize climate *information and services* to enable effective community adaptation action and decision-making.

We would like to also provide you with the following feedback gathered from participants at the May 11th Regional Resilience Workshop, as well as from the Clean Air Council and Ontario Climate Consortium networks.

Recommendation # 1: Support the efforts of Ontario municipalities to integrate a mitigation and adaptation lens to funding, infrastructure processes and decision making, including technical support for municipalities in the development of climate change adaptation plans.

In order to achieve this overarching goal:

- Data on future climate projections and impacts is necessary, but provision of data in itself does not ensure it gets factored into decision making;
- Increased support and capacity building for data analysis and integration of data into decision making is needed;
- A framework for the consideration of future climate into municipal decision making is required;
- An accountable and transparent structure for reporting on how climate change considerations have been integrated into infrastructure funding and decision making is necessary; and
- A financing mechanism is required to ensure no one level of government is unduly burdened with financing resilience.

Recommendation # 2: Advance the education and capacity building of key stakeholders and Ontarians to identify and act on resilience opportunities.

- Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Health and Climate Change Methodology and Toolkit provides an example of what could be required for individual ministries and sectors: http://health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/climate_change_toolkit/climate_change_toolkit.aspx. This type of framework/toolkit is required for various sectors: including but not limited to Public Works & Infrastructure Services, Buildings, Planning, Emergency Services, Transportation, Finance Officers, Council, etc.
- Training and capacity building programs (online/in-person) must accompany these Toolkits and should be aligned with professional accreditation wherever possible.
- Further exploration is necessary to identify interdependencies between these various sectors and their various Action Plans.
- Education and awareness building for the public is also key to ensuring climate change is factored into individual, municipal and provincial decision making.
- Other sectors also need to factor climate change into decision making (for example telecom, transportation, utilities, etc.)

Recommendation # 3: Recognize and support the significant value of a more formal and better resourced Regional Climate Change Adaptation Collaborative as a mechanism to advance progress and capacity in Ontario communities.

While informal collaboration and information sharing networks already exist across Greater Toronto, Hamilton and into Southern Ontario as a result of the efforts of municipalities, Clean Air Partnership, the Ontario Climate Consortium, as well as many others; there is a significant opportunity to augment the

value of that collaboration through the establishment of a more formal and better resourced regional resilience effort. This would:

- Increase efficiency and outcomes, accelerating progress toward community resiliency;
- Reduce the duplication of effort, saving time and money;
- Streamline municipal and sectoral implementation of resilience opportunities;
- Serve community members enabling prosperity within and across jurisdictional boundaries; and
- Provide a much more effective mechanism for addressing interdependencies between sectors that cross local municipal boundaries.

For more information on the actions that have already taken place within GTHA municipalities and the outcomes resulting from the informal regional resilience efforts, see Presentation # 2 and 3 of Appendix A (Summary Notes from May 11th Regional Resilience Workshop).

In addition, support for regional collaborative networks and facilitation of sharing between regional resilience collaboratives active in other jurisdictions outside of Ontario would advance progress and capacity across Ontario communities (especially those that are less resourced). It is recognized that it is likely that southern Ontario municipalities have more capacity to achieve the goal identified in Recommendation # 1, while northern and rural municipalities likely need more support and capacity building. However, supporting progress in southern Ontario will provide an ideal learning environment for all Ontario municipalities, delivering lessons learned that can be shared and leveraged to advance actions in all Ontario municipalities. The experience of a Regional Resilience Collaborative in southern Ontario will also serve as a pilot test case for the value of such collaboratives for Ontario as a whole.

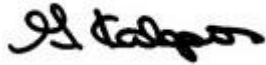
Recommendation # 4: Work with and learn from other regional collaboratives taking place in other jurisdictions.

There has been significant effort in developing Regional Resilience Networks in the United States, Australia and the European Union that can serve as guidance for Ontario Regional Resilience Collaboratives. For example, the [Lessons on Regional Resilience Report](#) on best practices from the United States found that, while still respecting roles and decision making in each jurisdiction involved, regional collaboratives:

- increase overall synergies;
- reduce duplication of effort;
- enable entities to leverage scarce financial resources and staff time;
- raise the bar for collective assessment of climate change risks;
- facilitate data sharing and analysis; and
- support the development of regional strategies for responding to the threats posed by climate change.

Additional information (though by no means comprehensive) on regional resilience efforts that can inform Ontario's efforts are provided in the above linked report as well as via Appendix B: Regional Collaboratives Summary.

Thanks once again for joining us at the May 11th Regional Resilience Workshop. We look forward to meeting with you and your team at your earliest convenience to discuss any questions you have related to the above feedback. We would also like to share more about a proposal to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities we are developing to further advance a Regional Resilience Collaborative effort as part of the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program.



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