

**From:** MIN Feedback (MNRF) <[minister.mnrf@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mnrf@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:49 PM

**To:** John MacKenzie <[John.MacKenzie@trca.ca](mailto:John.MacKenzie@trca.ca)>

**Subject:** Message from the Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

**Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry**

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354-2020-2374

December 8, 2020

Mr. John MacKenzie  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
[john.mackenzie@trca.ca](mailto:john.mackenzie@trca.ca)

Dear Mr. MacKenzie:

It is our understanding that the City of Vaughan is supportive of the proposed development that would establish a state of the art distribution centre that aligns with City of Vaughan interests, is in close proximity to Highway 400 and existing transit hubs, and has the potential to bring thousands of skilled employment opportunities to Ontario.

Through my Ministry's review of the development proposal, three wetlands on the subject property have been noted. We understand that you have reviewed and supported a report from the developer's environmental consultant where they indicate the wetlands are in a degraded state, and their quality and ecological functions are likely to continue to decline as a result of local agricultural practices and their proximity to/expansion of Highway 400. Based on this assessment, the ministry is reclassifying the subject wetlands.

We understand that in an effort to maximize the benefits of the site, a comprehensive wetland restoration project that will retain, expand and enhance the long-term ecological functions of wetlands has been proposed in partnership with your organization and the City of Vaughan. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is well-positioned to design and implement a plan to provide a net positive outcome with respect to wetland functions in the City of Vaughan.

Based on discussions between yourselves, the City of Vaughan and the proponent, it is possible to realize the economic development opportunity of locating the proposed distribution centre in the City of Vaughan, while also achieving an overall net positive

environmental outcome by contributing to wetland features, functions, and long-term sustainability. This win-win approach would balance the development for the region and the important natural landscape.

Our government continues to investigate ways to ensure this delicate relationship between important economic prosperity for the province and our desire to maintain and grow a healthy and sustainable environment is a top priority.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on important projects like this.

Sincerely,

John Yakabuski  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

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