

August 20, 2017

The Honourable Chris Ballard
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Telephone: 416 314-6790

E-mail: CBallard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Dear Minister Ballard:

An open letter to the Honourable Chris Ballard, Ontario's new Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

Congratulations on your appointment as Ontario's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

Bala is delighted that you are a Minister that can relate to small town issues, as the proposed construction of a hydro-electric generating station at the Bala falls (25 km north-west of Gravenhurst) is a unique and important situation. After 12 years of failing to show this could be done safely, the proponent still does not have the approvals needed, and there has been no construction to date.



Current in-water recreation at the Bala falls



The 2008 drowning at the nearby Wilson's Falls generating station

The province can now choose to do the right thing (as your predecessor Glen Murray finally did for Grassy Narrows):

- 1) Will the area's economy be maintained for the people on the left.
- 2) Or would this all become too dangerous, as hydro-electric generating stations are deadly to those nearby. The proposed generating station at the Bala falls would have **more than ten times the flow** of the nearby Wilson's Falls generating station, which caused the drowning of a 16-year-old boy in 2008.

The proponent has made so many changes **after** their 2013 environmental approval that their plans now risk; flooding Lake Muskoka, destroying the highway bridge, and dumping contaminated materials into the Moon River.

Much more information is available at SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Minister Ballard, we request:

- That the MOECC inform the proponent that while their 2013 environmental approval is still valid, their new plans do not have approval.
- To meet with you, so that we can present the safe way to proceed.

Please contact us at info@SaveTheBalaFalls.com, we would be happy to provide additional documents and explanation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitchell Shnier".

Mitchell Shnier, on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Cc: Norm Miller, MPP Parry Sound – Muskoka, Norm.Miller@pc.ola.org