

From: Peter Miasek

Sent: Friday, June 27, 2025 2:30 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill clerks@richmondhill.ca

Cc: Carol Davidson carol.davidson@richmondhill.ca; Marian Nalley marian.nalley@richmondhill.ca

Subject: Written communication supporting Member Motion 12.5 (Salt Pollution) at Committee of the Whole, July 2, 2025

To Members of Richmond Hill Council:

I am writing in support of this motion. I am a resident of Markham and active in the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition (OSPC). I also sit on the Drinking Water Source Protection Committee for Central Lake Ontario, Toronto and Credit Valley Source Protection Region.

The salt pollution problem touches all of southern Ontario. The OSPC has been urging lower and upper-tier municipalities to pass motions urging more provincial action. To date, about 10 municipalities, including Georgina and Whitchurch-Stouffville have passed such motions, with more to come.

Councillor Davidson's motion is very well written and covers all key points. Here are three supplemental points:

- The motion cites Lake Wilcox. This kettle lake is monitored regularly by the Province. Chloride levels are about 200 mg/l, substantially exceeding aquatic life government guidelines for chronic exposure of 120 mg/l. This means that aquatic life is already being affected.
- In addition to aquatic water bodies, there is an increasing salt threat to groundwater-based drinking water systems in parts of York Region, including Richmond Hill. The actions requested in this motion will help manage this problem
- The motion cites the Richmond Hill 2015 Salt Management Plan, including embedded best practices for roads. I believe that many of the road authorities in larger Ontario municipalities are indeed doing a good job on managing salt usage while maintaining public safety. The situation appears less positive for parking lots and sidewalks - both public and private. This is where provincially-endorsed best management practices, contractor certification and liability protection will have the greatest benefit.

In conclusion, this is an excellent motion. Please support it.

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