

Submitted via email to: kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org



June 1, 2017

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne,

Recently, FOCA noted that Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard confirmed significant financial assistance for flood victims in Quebec; specifically, on May 17, [Revenu Quebec announced a new tax credit \(up to \\$18,000\) for the restoration of secondary residences](#) affected by recent flooding.

FOCA has received calls and messages from seasonal property owners in Ontario who have also experienced flood damage. **FOCA writes today to ask: when can we expect to see a similar announcement by the Ontario Premier?**

FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, a not-for-profit membership organization representing permanent and seasonal waterfront property owners across the province. Ontario's 250,000 waterfront property owners are the private stewards of 15,000 kilometers of shoreline and 50,000 hectares of land in this province.

Ontario homes are limited in insurance coverage for damage due to overland water, and seasonal properties are not currently covered by the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program.

'Cottage country' matters to Ontario's economy, and billions are spent each year by waterfront property owners. In many rural communities, more than half of the residences are waterfront properties. Waterfront property owners pay higher municipal taxes relative to non-waterfront, extending their significance to the property tax base of many rural municipalities.

Statistics from FOCA's own membership surveys (2013; 2015) reveal a trend in rural Ontario, from seasonal to more permanent residency. In these, and [many more ways](#), seasonal property owners are important rural constituents, and should not be left behind in their time of emergency.

Respectfully, FOCA urges the Premier to acknowledge seasonal residents as important property owners in Ontario, and to step up the Provinces' support for flooding victims, as they have done in Quebec.

Sincerely,



Terry Kennedy, President



Terry Rees, Executive Director

on behalf of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Inc.

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cc: Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org