



JAN 18 2017

Mr. Terry Rees
Executive Director
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
159 King Street, Suite 201
Peterborough ON K9J 2R8

Dear Mr. Rees:

Thank you for your letter of October 18, 2016, inviting me to provide a message to the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations' member lake association representatives on the important role they play in managing climate change with respect to sustainable lakes and rivers. I regret the delay in responding.

Unfortunately, I was unable to meet the deadline for your request in time for the Federation's fall seminar, which took place on November 12. However, I am enclosing my personal message to the member lake association representatives about the importance of taking action against climate change. It can be distributed publicly.

Please accept my best wishes for a healthy and productive 2017.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

Enclosure



**Message from the Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change**

I would like to extend my greetings to all members of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations. I enjoyed taking part in the Great Lakes Public Forum with you in October 2016. Since then, Environment and Climate Change Canada has had an exceptionally active fall.

On December 9, 2016, Canada's first ministers released the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, calling for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and pursuit of the many opportunities afforded by clean growth. It was the culmination of almost a year of collaboration between federal and provincial/territorial governments, as well as consultation with Canadians.

As you know, the impacts of climate change on the natural environment, from coast to coast to coast, are wide-ranging. Reduced snow cover, changes in lake water levels and river flows, changing patterns of precipitation, as well as risks associated with climate-driven infectious diseases such as Lyme disease, can all be linked to this unprecedented environmental challenge.

By taking ambitious action now, we can prepare for or avoid the impacts of climate change and provide a healthy environment for our children and grandchildren.

Ongoing engagement with Canadians will be essential. Governments, communities, the private sector, academia, the non-profit sector, professional organizations and individuals all have important roles to play.

Organizations such as yours are vital actors. They can help drive the uptake of environmental stewardship practices, adoption of clean technologies, and actions to build climate resilience. Such actions will help ensure Canada's waterways and ecosystems are healthy and well-protected, and contribute to a prosperous, clean-growth economy.

Best wishes for all your endeavours in 2017.