

## Salt Resolution of the FOCA Membership (2026)

**Whereas** road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious or irreversible environmental and health damage from road salt; and

**Whereas** salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

**Whereas** recent evidence suggests that soft water/ shield lakes may experience effects at 10-20 mg/L, significantly below the federal CCME guideline of 120 mg/l (long term maximum); and

**Whereas** the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet the salt problem continues to grow; and

**Whereas** numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans.

### ***Therefore, be it resolved that:***

1. FOCA urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training, a single set of provincially endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice management, and clear provisions regarding limited liability for property owners and contractors; and
2. FOCA urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and
3. This resolution be sent to FOCA's member associations and encourage them to engage their municipalities in salt mitigation efforts; and
4. This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister of Transportation and the Attorney General; and
5. And further, that FOCA become a formal member of the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition.

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*CARRIED by the membership at the Annual General Meeting on March 7, 2026.*

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations posts related information here:

<https://foca.on.ca/salt/>