



Official Opposition • l'Opposition officielle

Ontario NDP Caucus • Groupe parlementaire du NPD de l'Ontario

Hon. David Piccini

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay St.

Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

August 24, 2023

Dear Minister Piccini,

We write to you in our capacity as members of the Ontario NDP Official Opposition, regarding the ongoing and urgent cleanup of chemical contamination in Mimico Creek and Humber Creek.

As you are aware, on August 11, an industrial fire at Brenntag Canada caused a chemical sludge to spill and spread rapidly in two Etobicoke watersheds. Countless local wildlife have been killed or had their habitats contaminated as a result. Local residents and visitors have been impacted and are in need of clear information. On August 18, we learned that this dangerous sludge began spreading into Lake Ontario.

Neither Brenntag Canada nor your Ministry have been transparent with the public about which chemicals were spilled, let alone the risks that they pose.

The Toronto Wildlife Centre has been a critical public partner in the efforts to protect local wildlife, but they have been repeatedly under resourced, and require support to aid in their critical work. We share their concern, and request that they be provided with emergency funding to ensure they can provide effective and timely operations.

To ensure that the contamination is resolved in a transparent manner, we are also calling on your Ministry to provide Ontarians with a clear timeline and expectations for the clean-up operations, including information about:

- Why will this take until October to be completed?
- What measures have you taken to ensure that locals are fully informed about the risks of contamination at nearby beaches and watersheds?
- What chemicals are involved?

As Minister of the Environment, it is your responsibility to ensure transparency and stewardship of Ontario's precious green space, and the safety of the people and wildlife who visit and live within it.

After the recent allegations raised by the Auditor General's special report on the Greenbelt, the people of Ontario have good reason to doubt your government's intentions when it comes to environmental protection. By releasing a fully transparent timeline for this cleanup operation and fully funding the public partners who are protecting the environment, you can help rebuild that vital trust, day-by-day.

Sincerely,

MPP Sandy Shaw (Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas)

NDP critic for Environment, Conservation, and Parks

MPP Peter Tabuns (Toronto-Danforth)

NDP critic for Energy and Climate Action

MPP Bhutila Karpoche (Parkdale—High Park)

NDP critic for GTA Issues

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