

**Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement,  
de la Protection de la nature et  
des Parcs**

Office of the Minister

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Mr. Joseph Pennachetti  
Ontario Clean Water Agency  
One Yonge Street, Suite 1700  
Toronto, ON  
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Dear Mr. Pennachetti,

I am pleased to write to you in your capacity as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA). Pursuant to the requirements of the *Agencies and Appointments Directive*, this letter sets out my expectations for OCWA for the 2021 fiscal year.

Ontario's board-governed agencies are vital partners in ensuring the delivery of high-quality services to Ontarians. Together with your fellow board members, the people of Ontario rely on you to establish the goals, objectives, and strategic direction for OCWA, consistent with your agency's mandate, government policies, and my directions where appropriate.

As you know, pursuant to the *Capital Investment Plan Act* 1993, S.O. 1993 (CIPA), OCWA is mandated to provide water and sewage works and other related services; promote the development, testing, demonstration and commercialization of technologies and services for the treatment and management of water, wastewater and stormwater; protect human health and the environment and encourage the conservation of water resources.

As outlined in the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, the government is committed to balancing a healthy environment with a healthy economy and to protecting Ontario's water resources. To support these priorities, I expect OCWA to focus on:

- Supporting the Province in its ongoing response to the COVID-19 outbreak within its powers set out in CIPA;
- Managing OCWA's operations efficiently, effectively and safely, with a focus on providing value to OCWA's clients and the Province by continually looking for ways to improve productivity, manage costs, enhance service delivery, and provide a safe and inclusive workplace.

- Supporting the adoption of principled, evidence-based and strategic long-term infrastructure planning by:
  - Working with OCWA's clients to develop comprehensive, long-term asset plans for their water and wastewater systems;
  - Supporting new and innovative ways, consistent with CIPA and approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, to finance client water and wastewater infrastructure projects, including providing financing in partnership with public and private sector stakeholders; and
  - Increasing waste diversion by supporting the development and implementation of renewable energy centres that use wastewater and concentrated organic waste to generate biogas for productive use.
- Supporting the effective planning, development, building, and operation of municipal and other water and wastewater systems through the provision of a comprehensive range of engineering and other technical and advisory services to water and wastewater system owners. This would include providing recommendations and advice on how to increase the efficiency and capacity of their systems, reduce the cost of delivery and maximize the life of their water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Enhancing municipal infrastructure resiliency, including supporting energy-savings and energy from waste programs and programs focused on flood management, and working with OCWA's clients to optimize and upgrade their water and wastewater facilities.
- Providing emergency response support to the Province by ensuring that OCWA's emergency response teams are ready and able to provide emergency assistance on a 24/7 basis, should the need arise, and setting emergency preparedness goals that reflect the importance of OCWA's role as an emergency responder for drinking water and wastewater emergencies in Ontario.
- Helping to protect water and the Great Lakes by:
  - Working with clients to prevent phosphorus and other damaging nutrients from entering local water sources through the effluent that is released from their wastewater treatment facilities; and
  - Educating the public about the importance of water and the Great Lakes, as well as the proper disposal of medications and other contaminants through education and awareness programs.
- Helping to improve drinking water for Ontario's First Nations communities by:
  - Providing training and operational support services, including remote monitoring and oversight, to support First Nations in the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater systems within their communities; and

- Supporting efforts to eliminate long-term drinking water advisories in First Nation communities.

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I would like to thank you and OCWA for your ongoing commitment to the protection of water resources in Ontario for future generations.

Sincerely,



Jeff Yurek  
Minister

c: Mr. Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Mr. Nevin McKeown, President and CEO  
Ontario Clean Water Agency