



MAY 18 2018

Mr. Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Emmerson:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 2017, and enclosure, requesting federal funding to assist with mitigating the impacts of invasive alien species. I regret the delay in responding.

The Government of Canada recognizes that invasive alien species cause serious and increasing harm to the Canadian economy and environment. That is why, in 2004, the federal government and its provincial/territorial counterparts introduced An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada to reduce the risk of invasive alien species and conserve our ecosystems. This strategy aims to respond to the invasive alien species challenge through prevention, early detection and rapid response to new invaders, and the management of established and spreading invaders.

As you know, the responsibilities for managing invasive alien species are shared among all levels of government. The role of the federal government focuses on preventing new introductions of these pests and their establishment. Provinces and territories have broad responsibilities for the management of established and spreading invaders. Municipalities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, including provincial and territorial invasive species councils, also play an important role in the prevention of new introductions and the management of established invaders.

Regarding possible funding, there is no specific program dealing with invasive alien species at Environment and Climate Change Canada. However, depending on the scope, activities and expected results of the project, funding may be available through existing departmental funding programs. For example, projects addressing invasive species that are negatively impacting the recovery needs of species at risk may be eligible under the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. For information on those programs, including eligibility criteria, funding deadlines and contact details, please visit the Department's website at www.ec.gc.ca/financement-funding/default.asp?lang=En&n=923047A0-1#_06.

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I trust that this information is helpful. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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