

From: MIN Feedback (MNRF) [mailto:minister.mnrf@ontario.ca]
Sent: April 25, 2017 10:34 AM
To: executivedirector@georgianbayforever.org
Cc: Downe, Jeremy (MNRF)
Subject: Message from the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

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MNR6446MC-2017-557

April 25, 2017

Mr. David Sweetnam
Executive Director
Georgian Bay Forever
executivedirector@georgianbayforever.org

Dear Mr. Sweetnam:

Thank you for your email regarding Georgian Bay Forever and its management of phragmites in the coastal wetlands of Georgian Bay.

As you are aware, the management of this invasive species plant in our province requires a coordinated approach with all sectors. I commend the work of Georgian Bay Forever, your partners and volunteers in your efforts to prevent and manage the spread of phragmites.

Ontario included an exemption in the regulations to clause 8 (1)(b) of the *Invasive Species Act, 2015* to allow a person to deposit and release a restricted invasive species, provided they are conducting activities to control or manage the species or carry out activities such as commerce, agriculture or maintenance. These exceptions only apply outside of provincial parks and conservation reserves.

As long as your control and management activities are not conducted within a provincial park or conservation reserve, the regulations under the act will not impact your activities.

Again, I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for the attention you and your project team have dedicated to following best management practices in your effort to control the spread of phragmites.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please contact Jeremy Downe, [Invasive Species Policy/Program Advisor](#), Natural Heritage Section, at (705) 755-5408 or jeremy.downe@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for writing.

Best,

Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Jeremy Downe

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