

THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES SUPPORTING MATERIAL FOR MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND POLICY INITIATIVES
BROUGHT FORWARD DURING THE 2022-2023 TERM. IT IS SHARED TO SUPPORT TRANSPARENCY,
ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INFORMED PUBLIC DIALOGUE.

Water Security, Environment, and Climate Responsibility

Drinking Water Crisis: Manganese and THMs

Status: Immediate stabilization achieved; long-term solution actively advanced

What was brought forward

In 2023, Casselman experienced elevated levels of manganese and trihalomethanes (THMs) in its drinking water. As Mayor, I took direct leadership of this file, prioritizing resident safety, transparency, and swift action.

Throughout the summer, I maintained open communication with residents and responded directly to concerns. Through this dialogue, a resident shared contact information for a water treatment expert. I immediately directed staff to follow up, which led to the identification of a viable treatment solution addressing both manganese and THMs.

Recognizing the complexity of the issue and the need for additional capacity, I also brought forward a motion seeking external expertise and community-based support to strengthen the municipality's response. Council chose not to support this motion.

Why it mattered for Casselman

Safe drinking water is essential to public health, trust in local government, housing growth, and economic stability. Addressing this issue quickly and openly was critical to protecting residents and maintaining confidence in municipal leadership.

Outcome

A short-term treatment solution was implemented, stabilizing water quality and restoring confidence in the system. This provided the time and stability needed to advance long-term planning for Casselman's water security.

What this demonstrates about my leadership

This entry demonstrates decisive leadership, accountability, and a commitment to listening to residents. By staying accessible, acting quickly, and prioritizing public health, I ensured Casselman's drinking water remained protected during a critical period, even when additional support was not approved.

Action Champlain Petition for Federal Environmental Review

Status: Council declined to support

What was brought forward

In January 2023, I brought forward a formal request from Action Champlain, a regional environmental organization, asking the Municipality of Casselman to support their petition to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change. The petition requested that the proposed Colacem cement plant in L'Orignal be designated for a federal impact assessment under the Canadian Impact Assessment Act.

Action Champlain's request was based on concerns raised during provincial hearings, where multiple errors and omissions were identified in the environmental documentation supporting the project. Despite those concerns, provincial authorities declined to revisit their decision, prompting Action Champlain to seek federal oversight.

Why it mattered for Casselman

Although the cement plant would not be located in Casselman, its air emissions, cumulative environmental impacts, and watershed effects had the potential to affect surrounding municipalities, including communities along shared air and environmental corridors.

Supporting the petition would not have taken a position for or against the project itself. It would have simply affirmed the importance of a credible, independent, and comprehensive environmental review, using complete and impartial data, before irreversible decisions were made. For me, this was about precaution, regional responsibility, and protecting residents' long-term health and environment.

Outcome

Council chose not to support the petition and declined to send a letter of support to the federal Minister. While the request did not proceed, this entry reflects my commitment to environmental due diligence, intermunicipal responsibility, and the principle that major industrial projects should be subject to the highest standards of environmental scrutiny when credible concerns are raised.

Proposed Price-Matching Agreement with South Nation Conservation for Tree Planting

Status: Discussion proposed; council did not want to advance the discussion

What was brought forward

In 2023, I initiated an open discussion at the council table regarding the possibility of entering into a price-matching agreement with South Nation Conservation (SNC) to support tree planting initiatives in and around Casselman, particularly along the South Nation River.

The proposal focused on exploring whether the municipality could partner with SNC to expand tree planting efforts using an existing, proven conservation framework, while managing costs through collaboration and shared investment.

Why it mattered for Casselman

Protecting Casselman's water source requires both immediate and long-term action. While major infrastructure solutions take time, I believed it was important to also consider preventative environmental measures that could be implemented right away.

Tree planting along riverbanks helps reduce runoff, improve water filtration, stabilize shorelines, and protect watershed health. By working with South Nation Conservation, the municipality could leverage established expertise and programs to strengthen environmental protection efforts in a cost-effective and practical way. This proposal reflected a proactive approach to environmental stewardship, recognizing that water protection is not only an infrastructure issue, but also a land-use and conservation responsibility.

Outcome

Council chose not to engage in discussion on the proposal, and the matter did not proceed further at that time. What this demonstrates about my leadership

This entry reflects a leadership approach grounded in prevention, collaboration, and environmental responsibility. It demonstrates my commitment to identifying actionable steps the municipality could take immediately to protect its water source, even while larger, long-term solutions were still being developed.

It also underscores a willingness to bring forward practical, partnership-based ideas that prioritize sustainability and responsible stewardship of natural resources.

