



SALT FACTS
MUNICIPAL
CAMPAIGN:
GEORGINA,
YR

ONTARIO SALT POLLUTION
COALITION, 2024 – 2025

OUR ASK

- **The Town of Georgina** urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially-endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice management; and
- **The Town of Georgina** urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and
- **The Town of Georgina** commits to the reduction of the use of road salt as much as possible while maintaining safety on roads, parking lots and sidewalks; and
- This resolution be sent to all municipalities in **York Region**, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), local MPPs, Conservation Ontario, Minister Andrea Khanjin (MECP), Interim Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP), Attorney General Doug Downey, and Premier Doug Ford.

ONTARIO LEADS CANADA IN SALT POLLUTION

- Ontario is responsible for 2.2 of the 5 million tonnes of salt applied in Canada.
- “Overall, Chloride concentrations in the streams monitored increased by approximately 2-fold from the 1960s to [2022]”
- “... lakes with the highest Chloride concentrations were commonly situated near urban centres, adjacent to highways, and tended to be in more populated regions of the province.”

WHAT WE ARE DOING ISN'T WORKING

CTC (Credit Valley-Toronto and Region - Central Lake Ontario) Source Protection Region Discussion Paper, March 2024:

- “It is not expected that current salting policies will have a significant impact in reduction of salt trends.”
- “Risk Management Plans to manage the salt issue do not appear to be having the desired effect & take a great deal of municipal resources.”
- “Until incentive programs that reduce liability.....to ensure safety but consider the environment are enacted, no significant change will occur and sodium & chloride in surface and groundwater will continue to rise”.

OPPORTUNITY TO REGULATE SNOW AND ICE MANAGEMENT SECTOR IN ONTARIO

- Roughly 11% of salt is applied by private sector on commercial parking lots (Lake Simcoe)
- Insurance costs are keeping some out of the sector
- Crisis when Town of Blue Mountains got no bids on tender to clear snow and ice
- Ontario appears keen – but moving slowly – we need your help!



Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association · [Follow](#)

November 3, 2023 · 🌐



Representatives of Landscape Ontario's Snow and Ice Sector Group gathered at Queen's Park in Toronto on October 24 to advocate on behalf of those who keep our roads, sidewalks and parking lots safe each winter.

The day was a success, with Premier Doug Ford and ministries across the board showing support to the cause.

The sector group is asking the provincial government to enact a regulatory framework for snow and ice removal to create safer working conditions, foster a mor... [See more](#)



Successful day
for snow and ice
contractors at
Queen's Park

landscapeontario.com
Green for Life!



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INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LANDSCAPE ONTARIO IS ASKING FOR LIMITED LIABILITY



- A year-round approach that involves removal of hazards before winter.
- “A regulated snow and ice management system supported by a legal framework that protects certified contractors who can prove compliance would allow Snow Management Sector (SMS) operators to make improvements in the management of salt and accompanying environmental concerns.”
- “The changes being sought only create an improved system for site analysis, elimination of hazards, and introduces a requirement for site specific protocols. At the core of the changes being sought is improvement of the procurement process and salt reduction concurrently.”

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LANDSCAPE ONTARIO IS ASKING FOR LIMITED LIABILITY (2)

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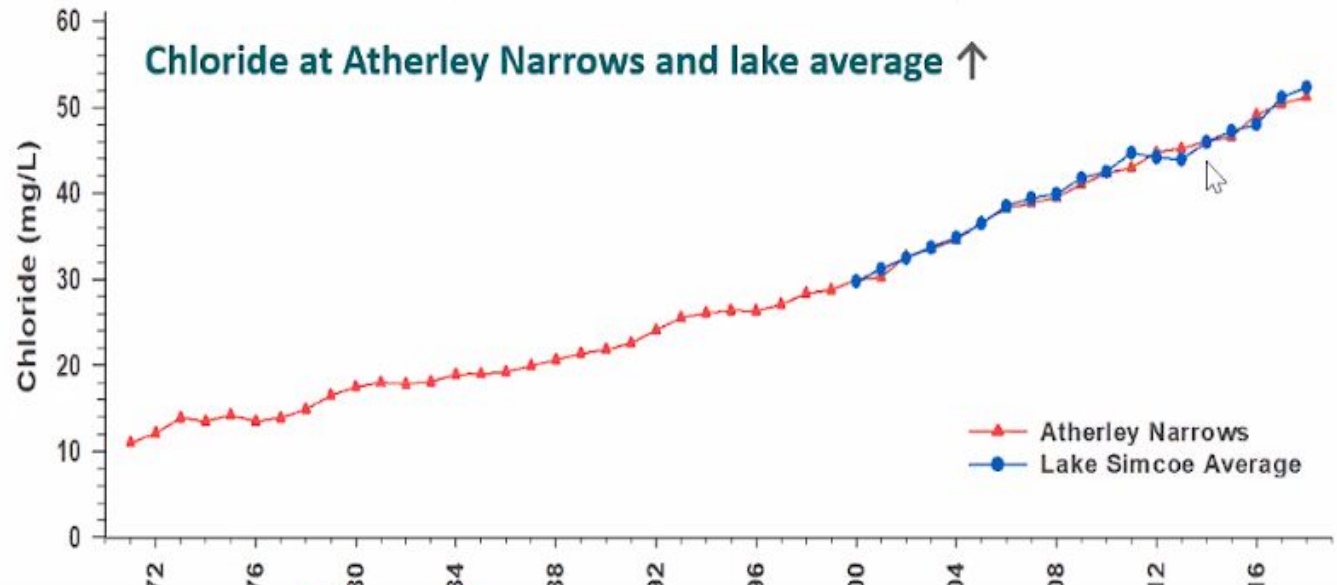
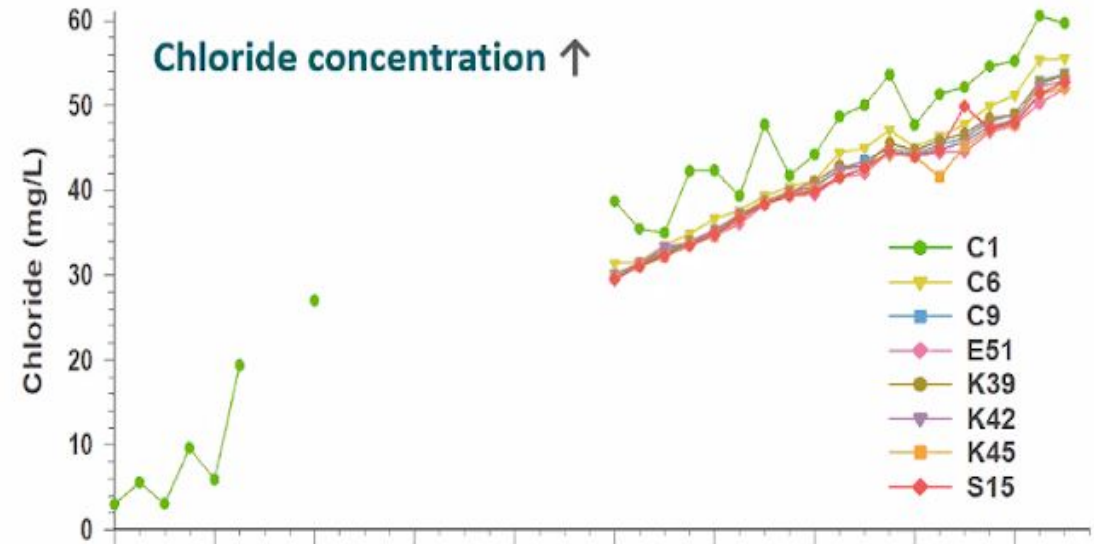
III. Policy Recommendation

Landscape Ontario wishes to achieve the following goals through legislative reform, the establishment of technical standards, and creation of a regulatory framework:

- Create safe conditions for Ontarians while respecting the natural environment;
- Reform the liability system by balancing risk to all involved in site management in winter;
- Establish a regulatory framework for snow and ice management in Ontario;
- Establish the parameters for defining reasonable risk.

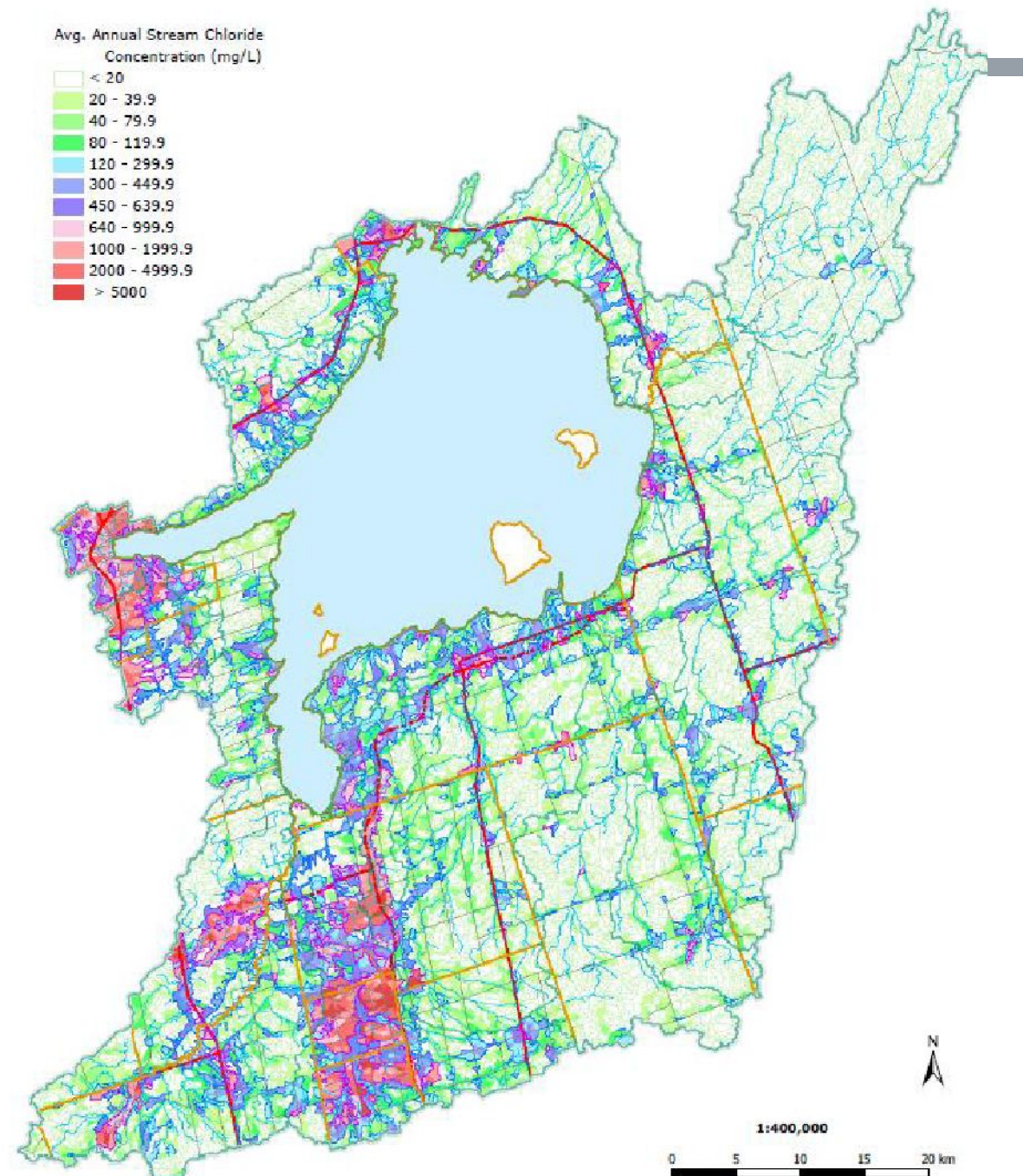
Water quality stressor

- **Chloride** continues to increase
- If recent rate of increase continues, chloride in the lake will reach chronic guideline level of 120 mg/L in 38 years



LAKE SIMCOE WATERSHED SALT VULNERABLE AREAS

- Predicted average annual chloride concentration at the time of "full build-out" in 2031
- Colours lower than bright green here will have an annual average chloride concentration in excess of the chronic exposure guideline for chloride.
- 2015 Study: LSRCA

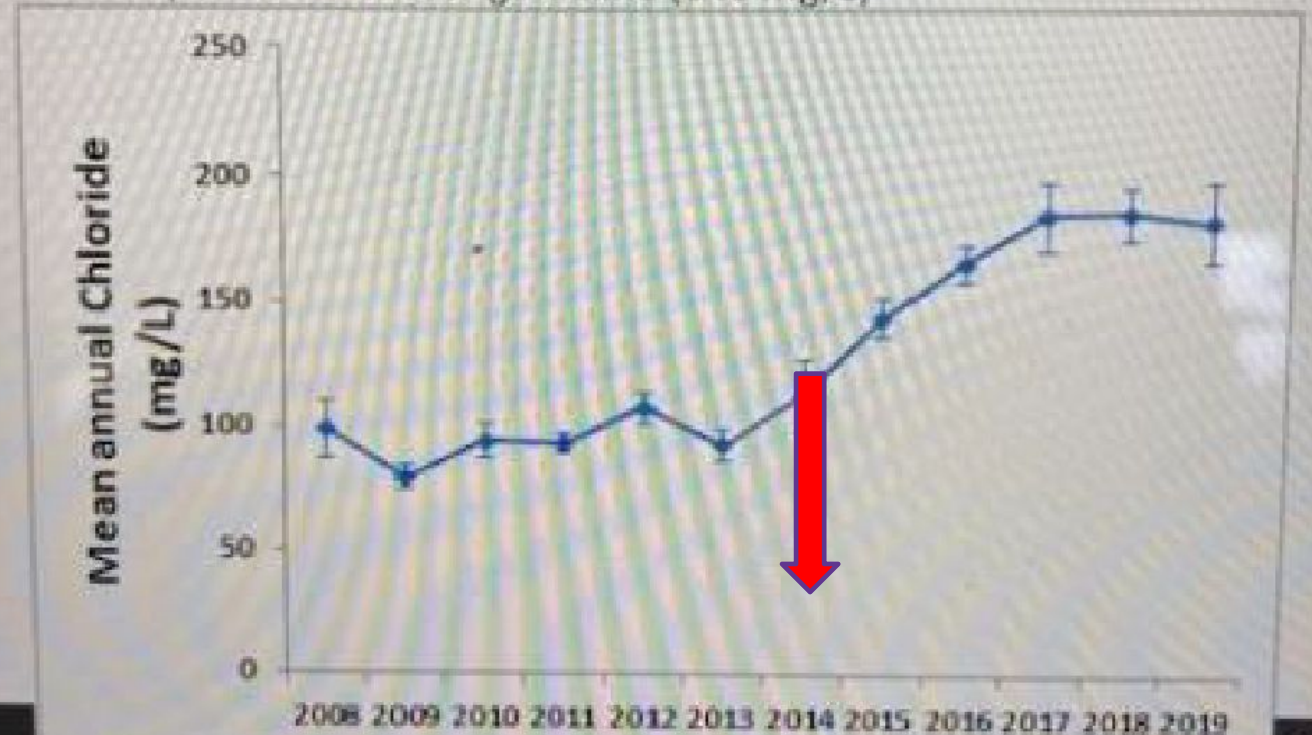


HIGHWAYS ARE SALT HOTSPOTS

- The Maskinonge River is impacted by Highway 404

Water Quality - Chloride (2008-2019)

- Increasing trend
- 42% of samples exceed chronic guideline (120 mg/L)
 - Before 404 Highway extension (2014): 12% exceeded guideline
 - Since 2014: 84% exceed guideline
- No samples above acute guideline (640 mg/L)



2023 Q2 Average Amount of Sodium – Milligrams per Litre

Ansnorveldt	41.7
Aurora	20.7
Ballantrae	11.5
Georgina	34.7
Holland Landing	21.8
Keswick	35.1
King City	27.7
Kleinburg	18.3
Mount Albert	14.9
Newmarket	23.5
Nobleton	15.5
Queensville	20.7
Schomberg	21.5
Stouffville	53.5
York Water System — Vaughan	25.9
York Water System — Richmond Hill	16.0
York Water System — Markham	15.8

*The York Water System receives water from Peel Region and the City of Toronto.

IMPACTS ON DRINKING WATER

- Georgina, Holland Landing and Keswick are already at a level of chloride that must be reported to Medical Officer of Health
- At 20 mg/L the Region must notify physicians who will notify their patients
 - High salt levels are a problem for those with severe hypertension, have congestive heart failure, or are on a sodium-restricted diet



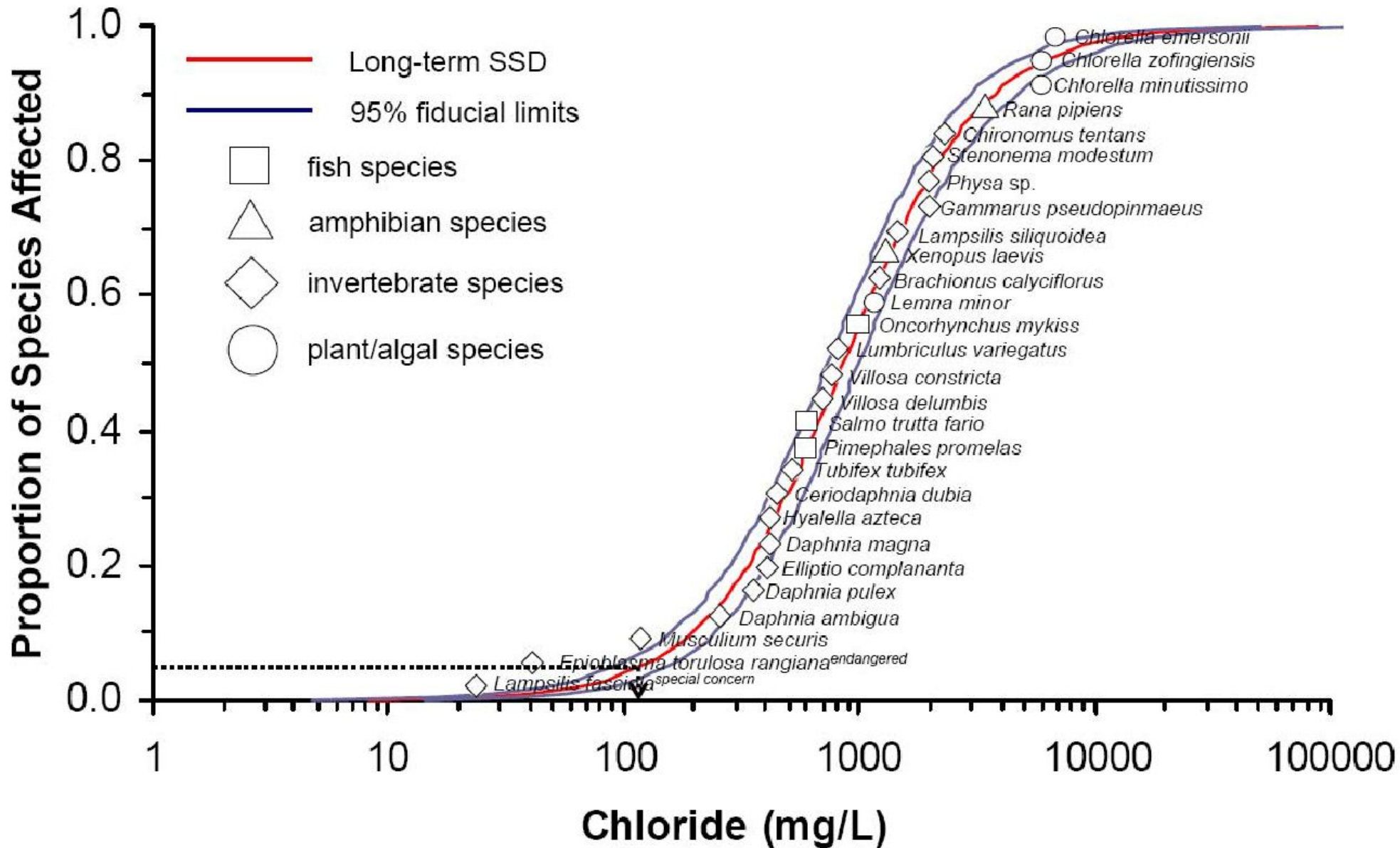
Government
of Canada

Environment and Natural Resources 2001 Assessment Report of Road Salts

“...it is clear from available information that there is a reasonable probability that road salts may be having an immediate or long-term harmful effect on some Canadian surface water organisms, terrestrial vegetation and wildlife and may also constitute a danger to the environment on which life depends through its impacts on aquatic systems and soils and terrestrial habitats.”

“Thus, road salts that contain inorganic chloride salts should be considered "toxic" under CEPA* 1999 because of tangible threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.”

* Canadian Environmental Protection Act



The Canadian Water Quality Guideline says most aquatic life is protected below 120 mg/L of Chloride

BUT 5 LOCAL SPECIES OF *DAPHNIA* PROVED THE GUIDELINE WAS SUSPECT FOR THE SOFT WATER OF MUSKOKA LAKES



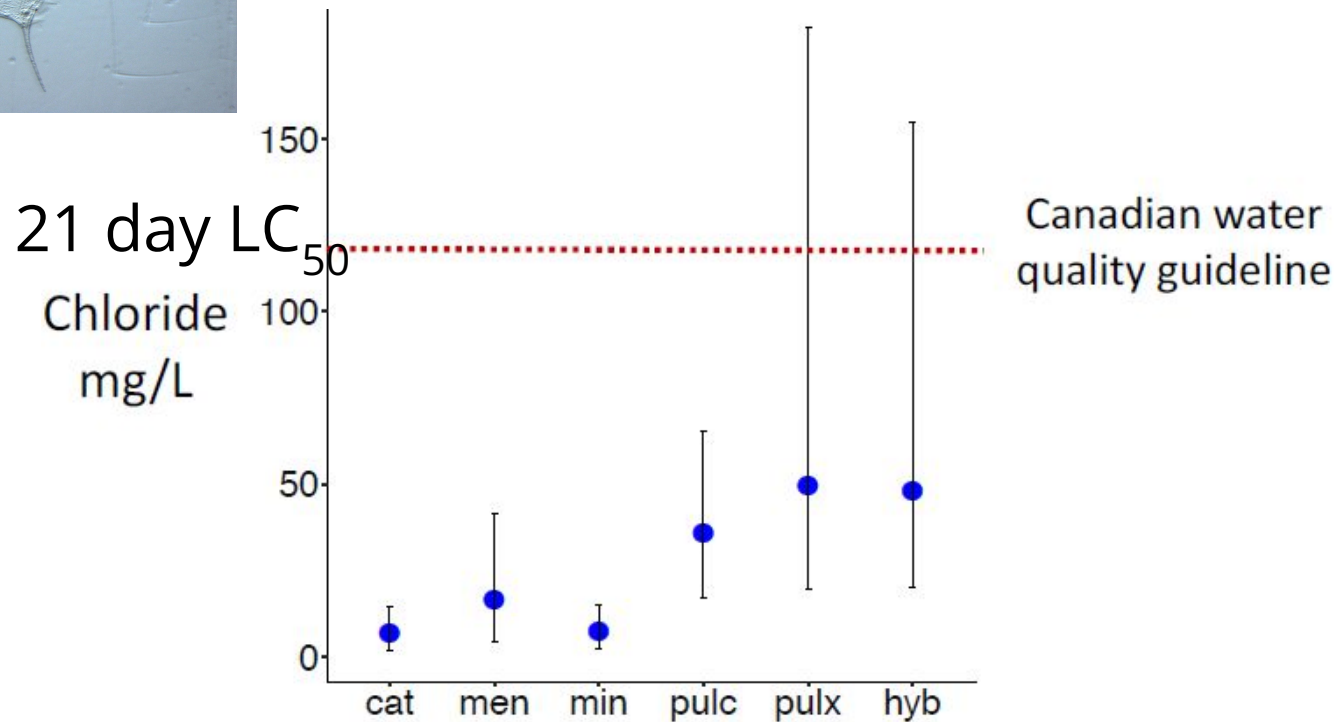
Research conducted by:



Dr. Arnott



Dr. Delis-Salgado



 = Daphnia species that die at Chloride levels below the Canadian Water Quality Guideline in the soft water of Muskoka lakes.

HIDDEN COSTS OF SALT

- Public infrastructure
- Fresh water for recreation, swimming, commercial uses
- Freshwater for drinking
- Aquatic life & food chain effects
- Boots and paws
- Cars



One of the cities libraries entrances. Salt plays a role in this



OSPCC



THANK YOU

SUSAN SHEARD AND MJ HANLEY, RESCUE LAKE SIMCOE COALITION FOR THE ONTARIO SALT POLLUTION
COALITION [HTTPS://SALTCOALITION.CA/](https://saltcoalition.ca/)