

8.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
ITEMS FOR  
INFORMATION  
PURPOSES**

December 9, 2025

The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy  
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
CollegePark, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Honourable Minister McCarthy,

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed by the Council of the Town of Ingersoll at its meeting held on December 8, 2025:

**Moved by Councillor Bowman**  
**Seconded by Councillor Hutson**

**THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll receives the correspondence from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority regarding Bill 68 as information;

**AND WHEREAS** the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

**AND WHEREAS** the Town of Ingersoll established the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority with other consenting municipalities within the watershed. (initially formed in 1947)

**AND WHEREAS** local municipalities currently provide approximately 35% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 2% (2026 budget);

**AND WHEREAS** municipalities have governed and invested local rate payer funds in their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

**AND WHEREAS** conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land. Many of these properties were entrusted to the

UTRCA for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

**AND WHEREAS** Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

**AND WHEREAS** the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of Town of Ingersoll calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

**AND FURTHER THAT** while the Town of Ingersoll supports provincial goals towards consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization. It does not support it through imposing a new top-down agency structure creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Town of Ingersoll supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Province respect the roles that Municipalities and Conservation Authorities play in conservation and governance;

**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks;
- local MPPs;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- area Indigenous communities;
- all municipalities;



December 15, 2025

\*Sent Via Email\*

Re: Members' Motion - Consultation on the Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

The following resolution was ratified by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 9, 2025:

WHEREAS municipalities have historically established and governed their conservation authorities under the Conservation Authorities Act;

AND WHEREAS municipalities provide approximately 54% of conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 5%. (2023 data);

AND WHEREAS for decades Conservation Sudbury and its predecessors have established programs and services to local watershed needs, maintained accountable service standards, and ensured fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS the Authority operates the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area providing access to all visitors at no cost, maintains and operates flood control infrastructure across Greater Sudbury including dams in Copper Cliff and New Sudbury, weirs in Coniston, berms in Dowling and Capreol, and the box culvert under downtown Sudbury;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Sudbury owns and manages extensive lands for conservation, public protection, and recreational purposes, many of which are leased to private operators and to the City of Greater Sudbury for recreational purposes, including Timberwolf Golf Course, Adanac Ski Hill, Rotary Park, Garson Park, Carmichael Park, and portions of Fielding Park;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government has proposed the consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into 7 large regional conservation authorities (RCAs) overseen by an additional layer of government named the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), a move that would dilute local governance and put municipal cost distribution in question;

AND WHEREAS in time, the OPCA will levy participating municipalities for some of its operating costs and will collect fees from the RCAs, and Conservation Sudbury, as proposed, would be merged with the authorities operating from offices located in Sault Ste-Marie (SSMRCA), Timmins (MRCA), and North Bay (NBMCA);

AND WHEREAS assets of the existing authorities would be pooled under any new RCA, which would include all lands, buildings, chattels, bank accounts and reserves as well as all loans and other liabilities;

AND WHEREAS the imposition of a new oversight agency lacking local accountability risks creating unnecessary costs for municipalities and authorities alike, adding "red tape" and unnecessary bureaucracy, and thereby undermines an authority's efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the City of Greater Sudbury requests that the Government of Ontario consider:

1. Maintaining local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation which would allow appropriate levy decisions, community-focused services, proper management of conservation lands and allocation of reserves to projects and infrastructure in the communities where the funds were raised;
2. Avoid imposing a centralized agency structure that could introduce additional costs, red tape, and bureaucracy, reducing efficiency and responsiveness to local needs;
3. Collaborating with municipalities and conservation authorities to improve consistency, capacity, and program delivery across Ontario without compromising local accountability;
4. Rejecting the proposed "Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257;
5. Requiring the Ministry to directly engage affected municipalities before finalizing consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Environmental Registry of Ontario Consultations prior to the deadline of December 22, 2025
- The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- MPP Peter Tabuns, Official Opposition Critic
- Frances Gélinas, MPP for Nickel Belt
- Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Conservation Ontario

- All municipalities within the proposed Northeastern Regional Conservation Authority boundary which includes the Cities of Timmins, Sault Ste-Marie and North Bay, as well as Prince Township, the Municipalities of Callander, Calvin, East Ferris, Mattawan and Powassan, the Town of Mattawa and the Townships of Bonfield, Chisholm and Papineau-Cameron
- Nickel District Conservation Authority

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brigitte Sobush".

Brigitte Sobush  
Manager of Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk  
c. Members of City Council



Office of the City Clerk, City Hall  
500 George Street North  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9H 3R9

December 11, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;  
MP Emma Harrison;  
MPP Dave Smith;  
Dr. Piggott, Medical Officer of Health;  
Stuart Betts, Peterborough Police Chief;  
Chris Snetsinger, Peterborough Fire Chief;  
Patricia Bromfield, Peterborough EMS Chief;  
All Local School Board Chairs;  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and  
All Ontario Municipalities

**Re: Elect Respect**

The following resolution, adopted by City Council at their meeting on November 3, 2025, is forwarded for your information:

**Whereas democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community; and**

**Whereas we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions; and**

**Whereas Ontario's municipally elected officials and municipal staff are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment; and**

**Whereas social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office; and**

**Whereas better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables; and**

**Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office; and**

**Whereas in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against**



**City of  
Peterborough**

harassment and negativity in politics and called on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct; and

Whereas H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials and municipal staff that encourages individuals to participate in the political process.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Peterborough supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:**

- Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online
- Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,
- Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,
- Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,
- Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and
- Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct; and

**Be It Further Resolved That the City of Peterborough calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at [www.electrespect.ca](http://www.electrespect.ca); and**

**Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the:**

Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, MP Emma Harrison, MPP Dave Smith, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario Rob Flack, the Peterborough Police Chief, Peterborough Fire Chief, Peterborough EMS Chief, Medical Officer of Health, all local school board chairs and all Ontario Municipalities.

**AND Be It Further Resolved That the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor be engaged in the implementation and communication of this initiative, and that staff explore opportunities to better integrate their expertise into Council's ongoing efforts to promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful civic environment**

Sincerely,

  
John Kennedy,  
City Clerk



**Inspectorate  
of Policing** | **Service d'inspection  
des services policiers**

Office of the Inspector General of Policing | Bureau de l'inspecteur général des services policiers  
777 Bay St. | 777, rue Bay  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 701 | 7<sup>e</sup> étage, bureau 701  
Toronto ON M5G 2C8 | Toronto ON M5G

7/4

## Inspector General of Policing Memorandum

**TO:** All Chiefs of Police and Commissioner Thomas Carrique, C.O.M. Chairs, Police Service Boards

**FROM:** Ryan Teschner, Inspector General of Policing of Ontario

**DATE:** December 15, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Inspector General Memo #8: Public release of the first Decisions by the Inspector General of Policing with accompanying Findings Reports

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I write to inform you of an important development in the work of the Inspectorate of Policing (IoP). On Wednesday, December 17, the IoP will begin publicly releasing my **Inspector General Decisions with accompanying Findings Reports**. These Decisions and Findings Reports flow from the IoP's investigations into public complaints submitted to us under the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)*. Publishing them is in keeping with our commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement.

### *Two types of IG Decisions*

Under the CSPA, the Inspector General is required to make Decisions and Findings Reports publicly available. These Decisions result from investigations into **Section 106 matters**, which address the conduct of police service board members, and **Section 107 matters**, which examine whether policing services are adequate and effective, comply with the law, and follow policies or procedures set by boards, the Minister, or Chiefs of Police.

Each investigation—whether into board member conduct under section 106 or service delivery under section 107—concludes with a **Findings Report** that sets out the evidence and analysis gathered by the IoP. Based on this report, the Inspector General issues a **Decision** confirming whether or not provincial policing laws and standards have been met. If a board member is found to have committed misconduct, the Inspector General can issue a formal reprimand, suspend the board member and remove the board member from their position. If a police service is found to be in non-compliance with Ontario's policing laws and standards, the Inspector General may issue **Directions** to address the gaps, and if those directions are not followed will **Measures** be imposed to ensure compliance.

Without reference to specific organizations or cases, early Decisions underscore sector-wide compliance requirements and expectations: boards must discharge governance mandates while not directing specific operations, and exercise caution in public communications; services should demonstrate risk-based response and strong dispatch/communication standards; the interpretation of specific requirements for the deployment of specialized equipment; and, professionalism in public engagement is essential.

***Importance of an organizational process for Decision review and application***

Moving forward, these Decisions and Findings Reports **will be posted regularly** as batches of complaint investigations are completed. As these Decisions are legally binding and will serve as precedent for future matters, **I strongly encourage each police service and board to build in a process to ensure these Decisions are reviewed and, where necessary, integrated into your operations** to avoid future compliance concerns and to improve overall performance. My goal is to support a culture where accountability and excellence go hand in hand.

I want to reiterate what I have consistently emphasized during our engagements with you over the past two years: this next step in the IoP's work is aimed at providing the policing sector with meaningful opportunities to learn from practical examples and to collectively strengthen performance standards. By sharing these Decisions openly, **we aim to provide clarity on how standards are applied, highlight areas of strength, and identify opportunities for improvement in the sector**. This transparency benefits everyone—police services, boards, and the communities we serve—by reinforcing trust and demonstrating that oversight is fair, evidence-based, and focused on strengthening police sector performance across Ontario.

***Staying up to date on Decisions and contacting your Advisor***

If you have any questions about how these Decisions can be used to support your work, please do not hesitate to contact your Policing Services Liaison Advisor. To stay informed about new Decisions and Findings Reports as they are published, we encourage you to **subscribe to IoP news updates through our website: [www.iopontario.ca](http://www.iopontario.ca)**.

Thank you for your continued partnership in building a policing system that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Ryan Teschner  
Inspector General of Policing of Ontario

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.  
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety

Ministry of Emergency Preparedness  
and Response

Office of the Minister

438 University Ave., 14th Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2K8

Ministère de la Protection civile  
et de l'Intervention en cas d'urgence

Bureau de la ministre

438, av. University, 14<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5G 2K8



**DATE:** December 9, 2025

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Heads of Council

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Management Modernization Act Achieves Royal Assent

Dear Heads of Council:

I am pleased to let you know that on December 3rd, 2025, the Government of Ontario's *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025*, which amends the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) received Royal Assent.

**The EMCPA is Ontario's framework for managing emergencies and defines the authority and responsibilities of the province, municipalities and specific individuals in emergency management.**

From ice storms to flooding and wildland fire, the risks facing communities have grown in scale and impact. That's why under the leadership of Premier Ford, Ontario has urgently modernized its legislation to reflect the rapidly changing landscape of emergencies.

The amendments we have made enable a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management and ensures response plans are tailored to local needs. Key changes now include:

- Clarifying the role of the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response as the provincial lead and one-window contact for coordinating emergency management activities.
- Outlining Ontario Corps as a key provincial emergency resource and capability that can be deployed to supplement local resources to support municipalities, when requested. (An emergency declaration is not required to request provincial support.)
- Strengthening Ontario's commitment to facilitating coordination among municipalities by implementing the joint emergency programs and plans for two or more municipalities.

The legislation will be implemented in phases, with future regulations to support it. Future work will enhance municipal emergency management by providing flexibility for programs based on local needs and capacity. Upcoming regulations will also clarify the process for municipal emergency declarations under the Act to ensure accountability.

Ongoing dialogue and collaboration with municipalities and emergency management partners will be key as the ministry continues engagement to inform future work related to these amendments.

On a personal note, it was a pleasure to meet with many of you this summer, including at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference to discuss Ontario's emergency management modernization. The feedback we received has been instrumental in shaping these legislative amendments.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to protect Ontario. I hope to see you at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in January. Your commitment to emergency management makes a difference, and I look forward to moving this important work forward with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Dunlop".

The Honourable Jill Dunlop  
Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response

cc: Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario



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December 16, 2025

*Hon. Todd J. McCarthy  
Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks*

**Re: Consolidation of Conservation Authorities**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their December 15, 2025 Council meeting:

*WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy;*

*AND WHEREAS local municipalities established the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in 1966, and currently provide approximately 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;*

*AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable services standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;*

*AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) and ERO posting 025-1257 proposes to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities and create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown agency that would assume oversight over conservation authorities and have the ability to levy authorities to cover its costs;*

*AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, standards and policies across all conservation authorities through*



*the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks;*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Smiths Falls calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;***

***AND FURTHER THAT while the Town of Smiths Falls supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;***

***AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Smiths Falls supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity and program delivery across the province, and requests that the province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives;***

***AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, to the local MP(s) and MPP(s), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the local conservation authority(s), and all municipalities in Ontario.***

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello  
Town Clerk

CAO

**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** December 23, 2025 2:16 PM  
**To:** CAO  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Submission on Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities



## AMO Policy Update - Submission on Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

### Top Insights

- AMO submitted four recommendations to the province on its proposal to consolidate the existing 36 conservation authorities (CAs) into seven regional CAs and the creation of a provincial oversight agency – the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
- We urged the province to maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise and decision making in CA consolidation, fund transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts, restore a 50-50 municipal funding partnership that reflects increased provincial authority over CA operations, and potentially its fees and establish an implementation working to develop options that would deliver on the province's consolidation objectives while protecting local decision making and municipal fiscal sustainability.

### AMO's Submission on Proposed Conservation Authority Consolidation and Creation of Provincial Oversight Body

In late October, the province announced plans of two transformative changes to Ontario's CA system. These changes are part of a suite of broader

legislative and regulatory changes intended to facilitate getting more homes built, through reduced regulatory burden and speedier regulatory approvals.

The first change would see the creation of a provincial oversight body, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The agency's mandate includes powers to issue binding guidelines on CA performance, standards, and asset management. The OPCA's funding will be a mix of provincial funding, service fees, and cost recovery from CAs.

The second change, if adopted, would create seven regional CAs by merging the existing 36 CAs. The proposed regional boundaries of the new mega CAs are based on natural watershed systems, keeping existing CA boundaries intact where possible, and aligning source protection regions.

AMO supports the province's goal to streamline and improve the land development services provided by CAs as it takes concrete action to build more homes and growth enabling infrastructure. AMO is concerned that the scale and pace of the proposed changes, when undertaken without prior consultation with affected stakeholders including the municipal sector and CAs, risks increasing regulatory burden and costs. The changes also erode responsive local decision making, including permitting time.

Given these concerns, AMO's recommendations to the province are centered on greater and collaborative stakeholder engagement that's foundational to addressing the governance and funding challenges in the current proposal. Specifically, we urge the province to:

1. Maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise and decision making in CA consolidation
2. Fund transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts
3. Restore a 50-50 municipal funding partnership that reflects increased provincial authority over CA operations, and potentially its fees, and
4. Collaborate on creating an implementation working group that would develop options, and group membership would include AMO, Conservation Ontario, select CAs and municipalities, developers, and Indigenous communities.

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*An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).*

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\*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.



Association of  
Municipalities  
of Ontario

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# Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

AMO RESPONSE TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND  
PARKS

**ERO 025-1257**  
**December 22, 2025**

## **About AMO**

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is a non-profit, non-partisan association that represents the interests of all 444 municipal governments across Ontario. AMO addresses common challenges facing our members and provides meaningful advice to the provincial and federal governments on practical solutions on a wide range of issues that directly impact local governments and the citizens they serve. AMO is actively involved in natural resources management and municipal service delivery advocacy because municipal governments play an important role in protecting public and private property and providing cost-effective services to their communities.

## **Executive Summary**

AMO is pleased to provide comments on the proposed regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities (CAs) in response to posting 025-1257 in the Environmental and Regulatory Registry of Ontario.

AMO supports the proposal's intent to reduce duplicative costs that could free up resources for frontline conservation and better align CAs' services with provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

We, however, have concerns that the proposed changes could create service delivery disruption, regulatory and legal uncertainty, and increase administrative costs. Outcomes that would undermine the proposal's objectives of predictable and consistent permitting approvals and timelines, and CAs' capacity to proactively protect people and properties from floods and other natural hazards.

AMO recommends the province consider the following governance, funding, and stakeholder engagement principles as it works towards finalizing its proposal to create a new oversight body, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and consolidating the existing 36 CAs into seven mega regional CAs:

### **Governance**

1. Maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise, and decision-making in CA consolidation.

### **Funding**

2. The province funds transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts.
3. The province restores a 50-50 municipal-provincial funding partnership that reflects its increased authority over CA operations, and potentially its fees.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

4. The province collaborates on creating an implementation working group which would develop options, and group membership would include AMO, Conservation Ontario, select CAs and municipalities, developers, and Indigenous communities.

## **Conservation Authorities: stewards of orderly development, protectors of people and property values, and providers of recreational and nature-based educational opportunities**

CAs play a vital role in the lives of Ontarians<sup>1</sup>. They ensure orderly land development and protection of people, properties, and property values by directing development and human activity away from natural hazards and floodplains<sup>2</sup>. CAs achieve these outcomes by managing watersheds and other natural resources within their boundaries and are frontline first responders to flooding events. They also provide recreational and nature-based educational opportunities to the communities they serve, which is how many Ontarians first encounter and become aware of CAs.

AMO supports the province's goal to streamline and improve the land development services provided by CAs as it takes concrete action to build more homes and growth enabling infrastructure such as highways. We, however, are concerned that the scale and pace of the proposed changes, undertaken without prior consultation with affected stakeholders including the municipal sector and CAs, risks increasing regulatory burden and costs, and eroding responsive local decision making, including permitting time.

AMO recommends the province consider the following governance, funding, and stakeholder engagement principles as it works towards finalizing its proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the province to advance these recommendations and our shared housing and infrastructure ambitions.

### **Recommendation 1 (Governance): Maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise, and decision-making in CA consolidation.**

#### **Rationale:**

CAs collectively own 150,000 hectares of land and 900 flood and water management assets such as dams<sup>3</sup>. They employ more than 3,900 personnel to manage these assets and run recreational and education programs, services valued at \$390 million annually<sup>4</sup>. The sound management of CAs and their landholdings requires extensive on-the-ground expertise and understanding of the unique environmental conditions within their catchment area. Knowledge that translates into timely development application review and approvals. The provincial standard for application review is 30 days. CAs meet this service level standard 90% to 96% of time, with average processing time of

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<sup>1</sup> An estimated 95% of Ontarian live in a watershed managed by conservation authorities. Source: Conservation Ontario's *Partners for a More Resilient Ontario* fact sheet.

<sup>2</sup> The flood protection role that CAs play in protecting properties is becoming increasingly more important as flooding become more frequent and intense due to climate change. According to estimates from the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation at the University of Waterloo, 10% of Canada's home market is uninsurable for overland flooding and homes in flood impacted communities have sold for up to 17 per cent less following a flood event.

<sup>3</sup> Conservation Ontario's *Partners for a More Resilient Ontario* fact sheet. The flood control and prevention infrastructure are valued at \$3.8 billion.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

seven to nine days<sup>5</sup>. This level of speediness is rooted in the strong relationships and trust that CA employees have developed with key stakeholders, such as municipalities, Indigenous communities, developers, farmers, and property owners.

Local oversight of CAs is also a key contributing factor to timely permitting. Elected municipal officials serve on CA boards where their duties are to provide operational, financial, and strategic oversight of CAs. Municipalities have a vested interest in well managed CAs. They are a key, and in many instances, the largest funder of CAs. In 2023, municipalities provided \$179 million to CAs via transfer payments<sup>6</sup>. These funds accounted for 25% to 68% of CAs' annual operating budgets<sup>7</sup>. Municipalities are keen to grow their property tax base as property taxes are one of the few unrestricted revenue tools they have. It's in their financial interest to ensure watershed, land, and natural resources planning and management proactively protect property values while also supporting new and orderly land development.

AMO supports CA consolidation, but the creation of seven mega regional conservation authorities is at a scale that would undermine and dilute the local accountability, knowledge, and community-based relationships that are the bedrock of responsive and cost-effective permitting approvals<sup>8</sup>. For example, were the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority enacted, CA employees would service the needs of at least 78 communities, covering a geographic distance greater than 1,400 km, and where there's little shared hydrology, climate, infrastructure needs, or growth pressures.

**Recommendation 2 (Funding): The province funds transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts.**

**Rationale:**

Each CA operates as an independent corporation. Even though CAs have shared mandates each CA has discretion of how best to operationalize its mandate. The province's consolidation goals of reduced administrative costs, and standardization of policies, fees, service levels, and technical capabilities cannot happen without harmonization of many parts of a CA's operations. These include:

- IT and data system integration
- wage and union harmonization
- fee and policy alignment
- corporate service model consolidation
- rebranding, signage, and legal transitions.

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<sup>5</sup> Based on data from Lakehead Conservation Authority, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Permitting delays are often the result of incomplete or missing info that CA staff require to complete their permitting review.

<sup>6</sup> AMO analysis of schedule 40 and 42 of municipal Financial Information Returns. Number of reporting municipalities is 171 (out of 444).

<sup>7</sup> AMO analysis of municipal council resolutions as of December 15, 2025.

<sup>8</sup> For physical-based activities, such as land development approvals, increased distance will lead to diseconomies of scale due to increased transaction costs, such as greater travel time.

- asset and liability assessment<sup>9</sup>.

Given the operational and systems variability across CAs, harmonization costs are anticipated to be significant. The recent merger of public health units is an example of the transition costs inherent to harmonization. All four voluntary mergers were accompanied by millions of dollars in provincial support to maintain service continuity.

To encourage voluntary public health unit mergers the province established a three-year merger transition fund. We recommend the province establish a similar multi-year transition fund for CA consolidation. The fund would cover transition costs and maintain business continuity in program and service delivery while change is underway. For full transparency, we encourage the province to first publish a robust quantitative cost-benefit analysis of the one-time transitional and incremental on-going costs of harmonization that lays out the financial, operational and governance impacts of the proposed changes before it designs the transition funding program.

**Recommendation 3 (Funding): The province restores a 50-50 municipal-provincial funding partnership that reflect its increased authority over CA operations and potential fees.**

**Rationale:**

The principle of “pay for say” needs to be reflected in the implementation of a new provincial oversight agency. Provincial funding of CAs vary but they range from 0.5% to 5%, which is significantly below municipal funding that ranges from 25% to 68% of a CA’s operating budget<sup>10</sup>. We urge the province to restore its 50-50 municipal-provincial funding model that existed in the 1990s to reflect its increased authority over the operations and management of CAs.

**Recommendation 4 (Stakeholder Engagement): The province collaborates on creating an implementation working group that would develop options, and group membership would include AMO, Conservation Ontario, select CAs and municipalities, developers, and Indigenous communities.**

**Rationale:**

All stakeholders, including the development industry, benefit from regulatory certainty. Consolidation introduces additional unknowns at an already uncertain time in the sector, following recent provincial changes to the role of CAs. The implementation of any regional consolidation needs to be delivered in a measured and predictable manner. And sufficient time is required by municipalities and CAs to develop appropriate transition plans that minimize service delivery disruptions and net new fiscal pressures

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<sup>9</sup> Amalgamating landownership will be a complex undertaking. Legal instruments such as land titles, surveys, easement agreements, will need to be reviewed in detail and is anticipated to entail significant legal costs. Future land donations by private citizens could be jeopardized under the proposed CA boundary changes as the larger scale erodes the local connection that motivates gift giving.

<sup>10</sup> AMO analysis of council resolutions

on municipal and CA balance sheets.

Municipalities and CAs, given their respective and unique roles in land development, are best placed to develop solutions that deliver on the province's consolidation objectives. We encourage the province to collaborate on establishing an implementation working group tasked with developing alternative policy options that would deliver on the province's cost savings and modernization objectives while protecting local decision making and municipal fiscal sustainability. The scope of work could include:

- Board governance
- CA boundaries and organizational design
- funding mechanisms, allocations, and reserve structures
- permitting approval standardization
- centralized corporate services
- common service standards
- transition plans, including service continuity, points of contact, permitting continuity measures, board and staff communications.

The proposed work could mirror the approach taken for the voluntary merger of public health units whereby a 12-month collaborative design phase was followed by a three-year implementation period backed by provincial transition funding and support.

As for working group membership, having regional municipal representation will be key to developing solutions that are workable and accepted by different parts of the province. For each proposed regional CA, we encourage the province to select municipalities along the following criteria:

- state of residential, commercial, and industrial growth (no, stable, fast)
- level of urbanization (rural, suburban, urban)
- level of CA funding (less than 25% of CA total operating budget, 25% to 50%, greater than 50%).

## **Conclusion**

Conservation authorities are key actors in the province's land-use planning system. They play a vital role in ensuring orderly land development and protecting new and existing developments from natural hazards including flooding. The province's efforts to increase housing supply and to bring this supply to market more quickly is aided by the timely permitting approvals carried out by CAs. AMO supports the province's goal of reducing duplicative costs in the current CA system. Savings that could free up resources for frontline conservation and better align CAs' services with provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

We, however, have concerns that the proposed legislative changes could create service delivery disruption, regulatory and legal uncertainty, and increase administrative costs. Outcomes contrary to the policy intent of the proposed changes. AMO looks forward to collaborating with the province to help bring municipal stakeholders and perspectives forward as the province finalizes its work on transforming the current CA system.

**Act**

Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990

# Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario)  
number

025-1257

Notice type

Policy

Act

Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990

Posted by

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Notice stage

Proposal Updated

Proposal posted

November 7, 2025

Comment period

November 7, 2025 - December 22, 2025 (45 days) Closed

Last updated

December 9, 2025

This posting was updated on December 9, 2025. The updates included removing the following municipalities from the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority, that were included in error: the Municipality of Northern Bruce, Peninsula, the Township of Severn, the Township of Tay, and the Township of Tiny. The updates included removing the following municipalities from the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority, that were included in error: the Town of Prescott and the Township of East Hawkesbury.

This consultation was open from:

**November 7, 2025**

**to December 22, 2025**

## Proposal summary

Ontario is proposing changes to improve the conservation authority (CA) system to free up resources for front-line service delivery to help protect communities and better align the work of CAs (conservation authorities) with provincial

# Proposal details

priorities. This proposal seeks feedback on proposed boundaries and criteria for the regional consolidation of Ontario's 36 CAs.(conservation authorities).

## Background

Ontario's 36 conservation authorities play a vital role in watershed management and protecting communities from natural hazards like floods. Conservation authorities deliver programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources. The *Conservation Authorities Act* also establishes areas where a permit must be obtained from a conservation authority before a person engages in a development activity in certain circumstances or interference with a watercourse. Conservation authorities review permit applications and issue permits to builders, municipalities and property owners for development activities such as housing developments, installation of sewage systems in areas affected by risks of natural hazards such as floodplains, shorelines, river and stream valleys, and wetlands. Permitting administered by conservation authorities helps to ensure that development does not happen in unsafe areas and that it does not worsen the impacts of flooding or erosion in surrounding areas.

The current system of 36 separate conservation authorities is fragmented, with each conservation authority following different policies, standards, fees and levels of staffing and technical capabilities. This has led to unpredictable and inconsistent turnaround times for approvals across all conservation authorities, creating uncertainty and delays for builders, landowners and farmers seeking permits, and undermining conservation authorities' ability to protect communities from floods and natural hazards.

## Improving Conservation Authorities

On October 31, 2025, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation which, if passed, would amend the *Conservation Authorities Act* to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency – a provincial board-governed agency – to provide centralized leadership, efficient governance, strategic direction, and oversight of Ontario's conservation authorities.

Another key action announced by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Chief Conservation Executive is the plan to consolidate the province's 36 conservation authorities into regional conservation authorities that continue to align with watershed boundaries.

These proposed improvements to the conservation authority system would reduce duplicative administrative costs, free-up resources for frontline conservation, and better align conservation authorities' services with provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure and climate resilience.

The regional conservation authorities would continue to focus on managing natural hazards and watershed health, drawing on decades of local knowledge and partnerships. With better tools and more resources for front-line staff, the regional conservation authorities would operate with greater consistency and transparency, deliver faster services to municipalities and permit applicants, while ensuring decisions continue to be based on sound science.

## Proposal for Regional Consolidation

We are seeking feedback on the proposed boundaries and the criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. This feedback will help inform the development of further proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* that may be introduced at a later date.

Ontario's 36 conservation authorities would be consolidated into the following 7 regional conservation authorities. Please see the attached supporting document for maps of the proposed boundaries and additional information on the consolidated regional conservation authorities, and visit the [interactive map](https://www.ontario.ca/libraries/arcgis-map/static/arcGIS-map-en.html?tableId=5f1e653b8de14dcab5cc90ef69f45cd0) (<https://www.ontario.ca/libraries/arcgis-map/static/arcGIS-map-en.html?tableId=5f1e653b8de14dcab5cc90ef69f45cd0>) featuring maps of the seven proposed regional conservation authority boundaries. You can type an address into the search bar to see which regional conservation authority to which it belongs.

- **Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority** – covers southwestern Ontario watersheds draining into Lake Erie, including the Thames, Grand, and Sydenham systems, supporting agriculture, industry, and shoreline communities. Primarily based on the Northern Lake Erie Secondary Watershed

- **Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority** – includes watersheds along Lake Huron’s northern shore and the Lake Superior basin, supporting conservation and flood management across vast northern watersheds. Primarily based on the Eastern Lake Huron and southern portion of Eastern Georgian Bay Secondary Watershed and in the north the central portion of Northwestern Lake Superior Secondary Watershed.
- **Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** – extends along the western Lake Ontario shoreline from Niagara through Halton and Peel, encompassing urban and rural watersheds that support the Greater Toronto–Hamilton corridor. Primarily based on the western portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- **Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** – covers the watersheds from north of Toronto, including parts of York Region, west through Peel Region, east through Durham, and into parts of the Kawarthas, balancing urban growth and agricultural lands while protecting key tributaries to Lake Ontario. Primarily based on the central portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- **Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** – Includes watersheds draining to eastern Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte, including the Trent and Cataraqui systems, supporting a mix of agricultural, urban, and coastal communities. Primarily based on the eastern portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- **St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority** – Encompasses watersheds flowing into the St. Lawrence River, including the Raisin and South Nation areas, coordinating flood and water management across eastern Ontario. Primarily based on the Upper St. Lawrence, Lower Ottawa River, and southern portion of the Central Ottawa River Secondary Watersheds.
- **Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** – Brings together the conservation authorities in the northeast, maintaining coordination across large watershed areas and shared northern infrastructure and ecosystems. Its work focuses on maintaining healthy waterways, protecting natural habitats, and promoting sustainable land and water use across major watershed areas that span parts of

Northern Lake Huron, the Abitibi, Missinaibi, Mattagami, Wanipitai, French, and Upper Ottawa River systems.

No changes would be proposed to the overall extent of conservation authority jurisdiction within the province, and under consolidation the new regional conservation authorities would remain independent organizations operating with municipal governance and oversight, in accordance with requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, as administered by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

In addition, the important work that conservation authorities do to protect people and property from the risks of flooding and other natural hazards will not change. The regional conservation authorities would continue to fulfill provincially mandated programs such as drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act*, regulating, development and other activities in areas at risk of natural hazards like flooding and erosion (e.g. (example) floodplains, shorelines, watercourse and wetlands), flood forecasting and warning, and managing their lands and recreational trails so that Ontarians have access to local natural areas and outdoor activities.

Regional conservation authorities would continue to provide municipal and other watershed programs and services set out under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, such as tree planting, data collection, restoration and other integrated watershed management activities that enhance the resilience of local watersheds and educate and engage local communities.

The criteria applied for determining the proposed boundaries for regional conservation authorities are:

- maintaining watershed-based jurisdictions – aligning with natural hydrological boundaries to support effective flood and water management, consistent with drinking water Source Protection Areas and Regions
- relationships between conservation authorities and municipalities – reducing administrative duplication and overlap for municipalities and conservation authorities to simplify accountability and strengthen local partnerships
- balancing expertise and capacity across conservation authorities – enhancing technical skills and resources across conservation authorities to improve service and program delivery

- service continuity – ensuring uninterrupted delivery of local conservation authority programs – including flood forecasting and warning, permitting, and source water protection – through and after consolidation

## Providing feedback and discussion questions

We welcome your feedback in response to the proposed boundaries and criteria applied to inform the boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. Comments may be submitted through this posting or by email to [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca).

We welcome your feedback to the following discussion questions which are especially relevant to the planning for the future state:

- What do you see as key factors to support a successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authority consolidation?
- What opportunities or benefits may come from a regional conservation authority framework?
- Do you have suggestions for how governance could be structured at the regional conservation authority level, including suggestions around board size, make-up and the municipal representative appointment process?
- Do you have suggestions on how to maintain a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority?
- How can regional conservation authorities maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and stakeholders?

Ontario's 36 conservation authorities would be consolidated into the following 7 regional conservation authorities. Please see the attached supporting document for maps of the proposed boundaries and additional information on the consolidated regional conservation authorities, and visit the [interactive map](https://www.ontario.ca/libraries/arcgis-map/static/arcGIS-map-en.html?tableId=5f1e653b8de14dcab5cc90ef69f45cd0) (<https://www.ontario.ca/libraries/arcgis-map/static/arcGIS-map-en.html?tableId=5f1e653b8de14dcab5cc90ef69f45cd0>) featuring maps of the seven proposed regional conservation authority boundaries. You can type an address into the search bar to see which regional conservation authority to which it belongs.

All feedback provided on this policy proposal notice will help to inform the government's decision-making for the boundaries of the regional conservation authorities, and any legislative and regulatory changes under the *Conservation Authorities Act* that may be developed for introduction at a later date to enable consolidation. The public, municipalities, other stakeholders, and Indigenous communities will be consulted further on the details of any future legislative or regulatory changes.

The implementation of the regional consolidation of conservation authorities would be overseen by the provincial board-governed agency that would be created by the first phase of proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, if such changes are introduced and passed. This oversight role would include coordinating the transition process with conservation authority, municipal and stakeholder involvement to ensure minimal disruptions for conservation authority staff, stakeholders, member municipalities, and partners including Indigenous communities. The Ministry will provide further details on timelines, engagement opportunities, and transition supports at a future date.

## Supporting materials

### Related files

[Supplemental Document \(https://ero.ontario.ca/public/2025-12/Supplemental%20Document\\_EN.pdf\)](https://ero.ontario.ca/public/2025-12/Supplemental%20Document_EN.pdf)  
pdf (Portable Document Format file) 1.78 MB

### Related links

[Conservation Authorities Act](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90c27)  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90c27>

### **View materials in person**

Some supporting materials may not be available online. If this is the case, you can request to view the materials in person.

Get in touch with the office listed below to find out if materials are available.

MECP Conservation and Source Protection Branch

300 Water Street North tower, 5th floor  
Peterborough, ON  
K9J 3C7  
Canada

## Comment

Commenting is now closed.

The comment period was from November 7, 2025 to December 22, 2025

## Connect with us

### Contact

Public Input Coordinator

 [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca)

# **Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities – supplemental document**

Posting closes December 22, 2025, at 11:59pm  
Please submit comments via the ERO posting or by email to  
[ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca)

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## Summary of Proposal

This proposal seeks feedback on proposed boundaries and criteria for the regional consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities.

It is proposed that Ontario's 36 conservation authorities would be consolidated into the following 7 regional conservation authorities:

- Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority – covers southwestern Ontario watersheds draining into Lake Erie, including the Thames, Grand, and Sydenham systems, supporting agriculture, industry, and shoreline communities. Primarily based on the Northern Lake Erie Secondary Watershed
- Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority – includes watersheds along Lake Huron's northern shore and the Lake Superior basin, supporting conservation and flood management across vast northern watersheds. Primarily based on the Eastern Lake Huron and southern portion of Eastern Georgian Bay Secondary Watershed and in the north the central portion of Northwestern Lake Superior Secondary Watershed.
- Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – extends along the western Lake Ontario shoreline from Niagara through Halton and Peel, encompassing urban and rural watersheds that support the Greater Toronto–Hamilton corridor. Primarily based on the western portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – covers the watersheds from north of Toronto, including parts of York Region, west through Peel Region, east through Durham, and into parts of the Kawarthas, balancing urban growth and agricultural lands while protecting key tributaries to Lake Ontario. Primarily based on the central portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – Includes watersheds draining to eastern Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte, including the Trent and Cataraqui systems, supporting a mix of agricultural, urban, and coastal communities. Primarily based on the eastern portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority – Encompasses watersheds flowing into the St. Lawrence River, including the Raisin and South Nation areas, coordinating flood and water management across eastern Ontario. Primarily based on the Upper St. Lawrence, Lower Ottawa River, and southern portion of the Central Ottawa River Second Watersheds.
- Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – brings together the conservation authorities in the northeast, maintaining coordination across large

watershed areas and shared northern infrastructure and ecosystems. Its work focuses on maintaining healthy waterways, protecting natural habitats, and promoting sustainable land and water use across major watershed areas that span parts of Northern Lake Huron, the Abitibi, Missinaibi, Mattagami, Wanipitai, French, and Upper Ottawa River systems.

No changes are proposed to the overall extent of conservation authority jurisdiction within the province, and under consolidation the new regional conservation authorities would remain independent organizations operating with municipal governance and oversight, in accordance with requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, as administered by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

In addition, the important work that conservation authorities do to protect people and property from the risks of flooding and other natural hazards will not change. The regional conservation authorities would continue to fulfill provincially mandated programs such as drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act*, managing development and other activities in areas at risk of natural hazards like flooding and erosion (e.g., floodplains, shorelines, watercourse and wetlands), flood forecasting and warning, and managing their lands and recreational trails so that Ontarians have access to local natural areas and outdoor activities. Regional conservation authorities would continue to provide additional municipal and other watershed programs and services set out under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

We welcome your feedback in response to the proposed boundaries and criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. Comments may be submitted through the Environmental Registry posting or by email to [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca).

## Boundary Criteria

Provided below are criteria applied for determining the proposed boundaries for regional conservation authorities:

- **Maintaining watershed-based jurisdictions** – Aligning with natural hydrological boundaries to support effective flood and water management, consistent with drinking water Source Protection Areas and Regions.
- **Relationships between conservation authorities and municipalities** – Reducing administrative duplication and overlap for municipalities and conservation authorities to simplify accountability and strengthen local partnerships.
- **Balancing expertise and capacity across conservation authorities** – Enhancing technical skills and resources across conservation authorities to improve service and program delivery.
- **Service Continuity** – Ensuring uninterrupted delivery of local conservation authority programs – including flood forecasting and warning, permitting, and source water protection – through and after consolidation.

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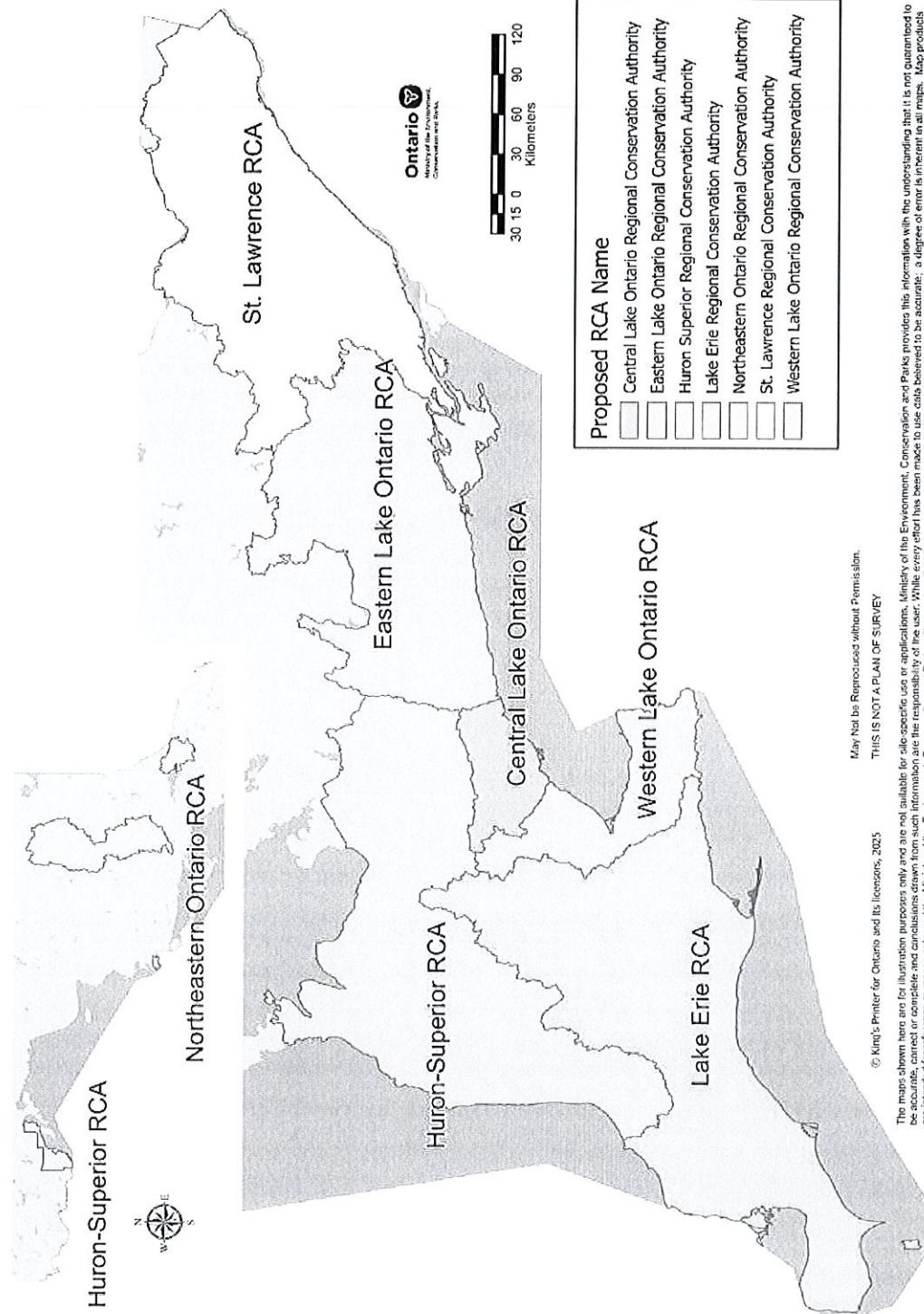
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## Maps

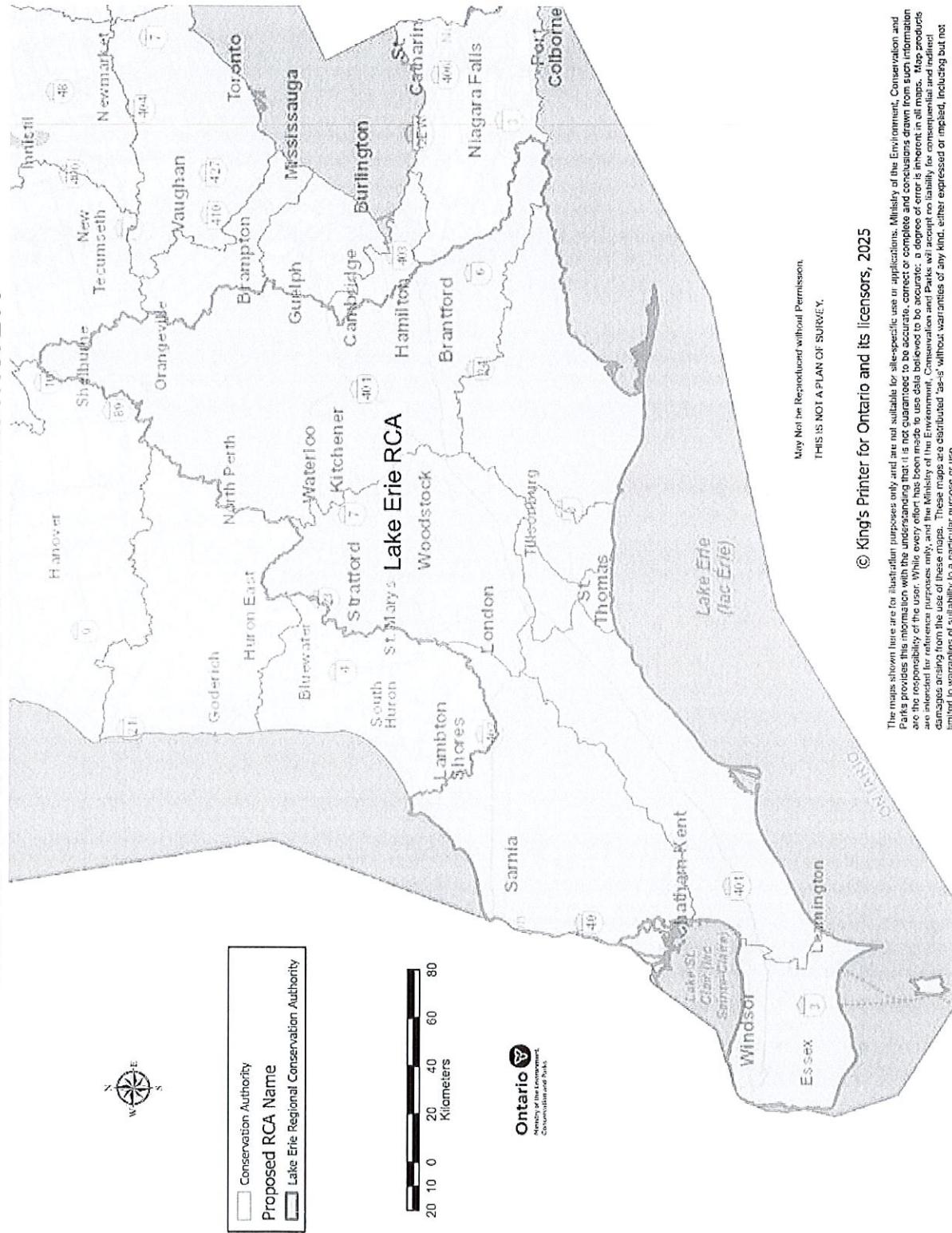
### Map of Proposed Regional Conservation Authorities

## PROPOSED 7 REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (RCA)



Map of Proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority

LAKE ERIE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



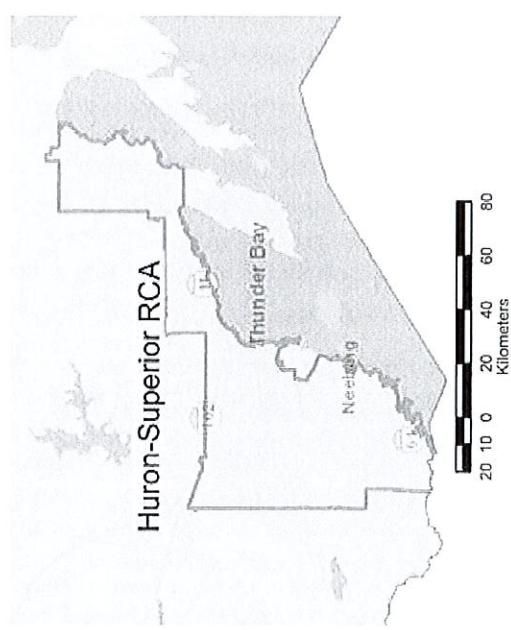
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## Map of Proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority

HURON-SUPERIOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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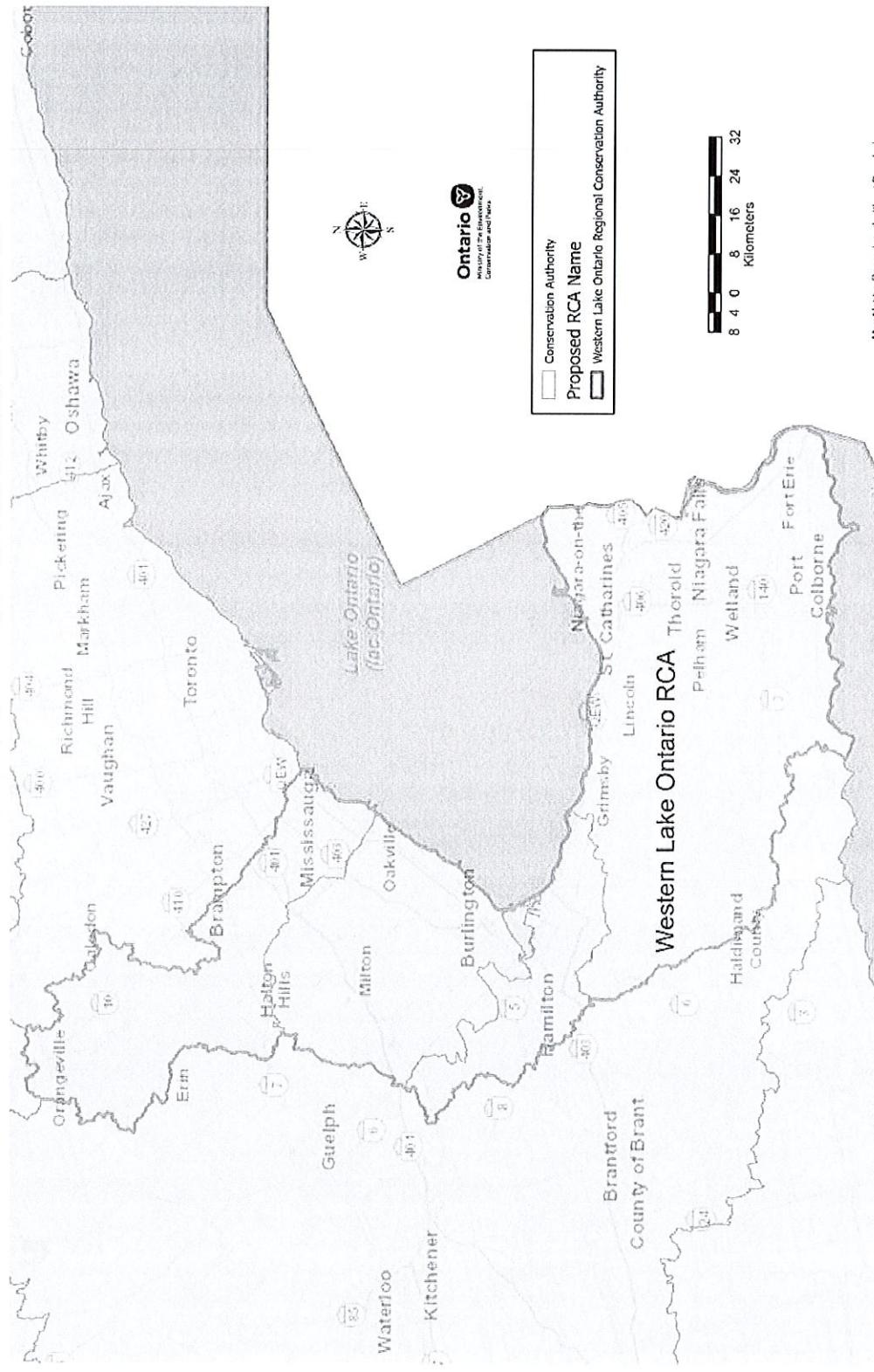
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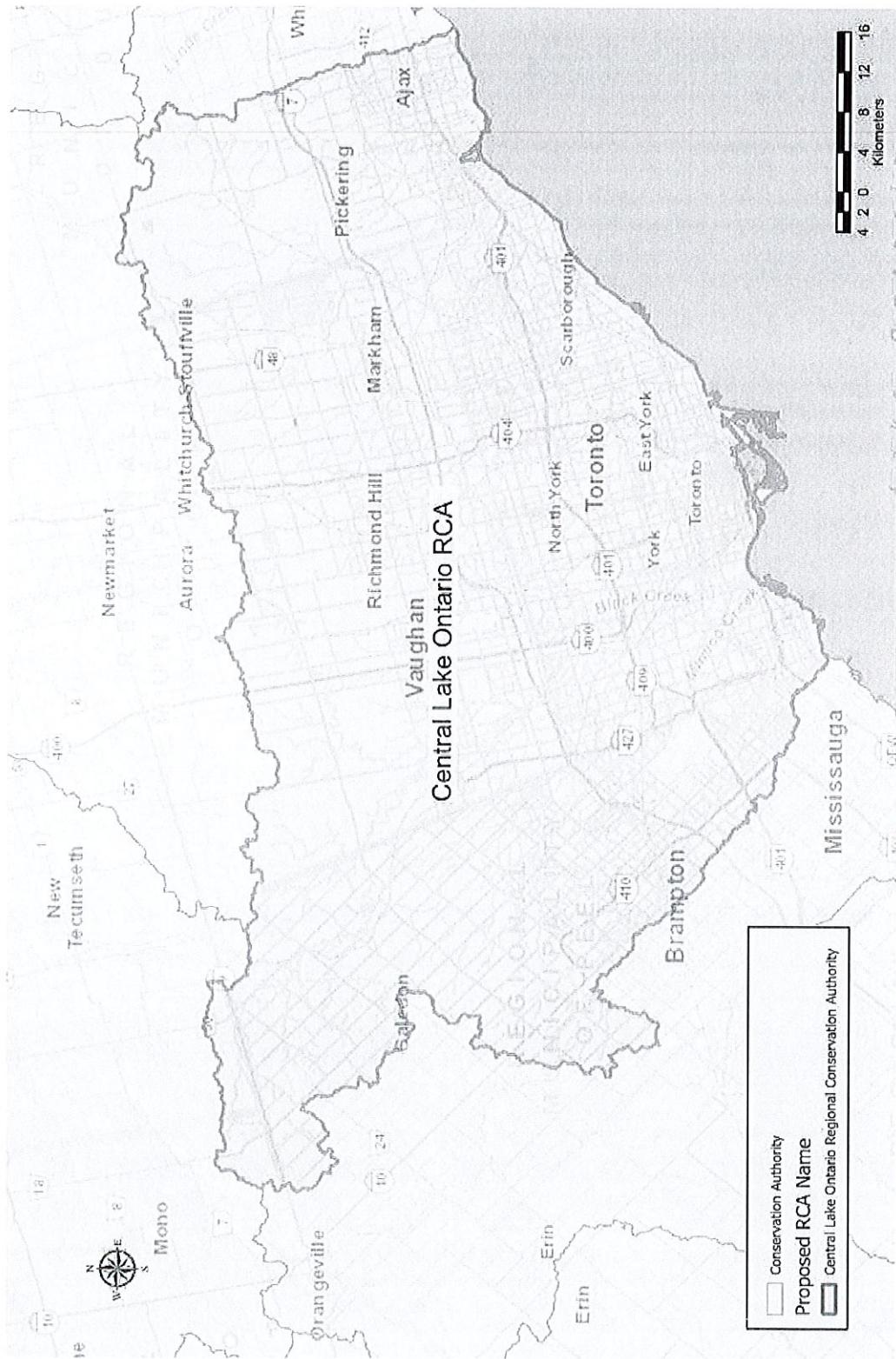
## Map of Proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

### WESTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



## Map of Proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



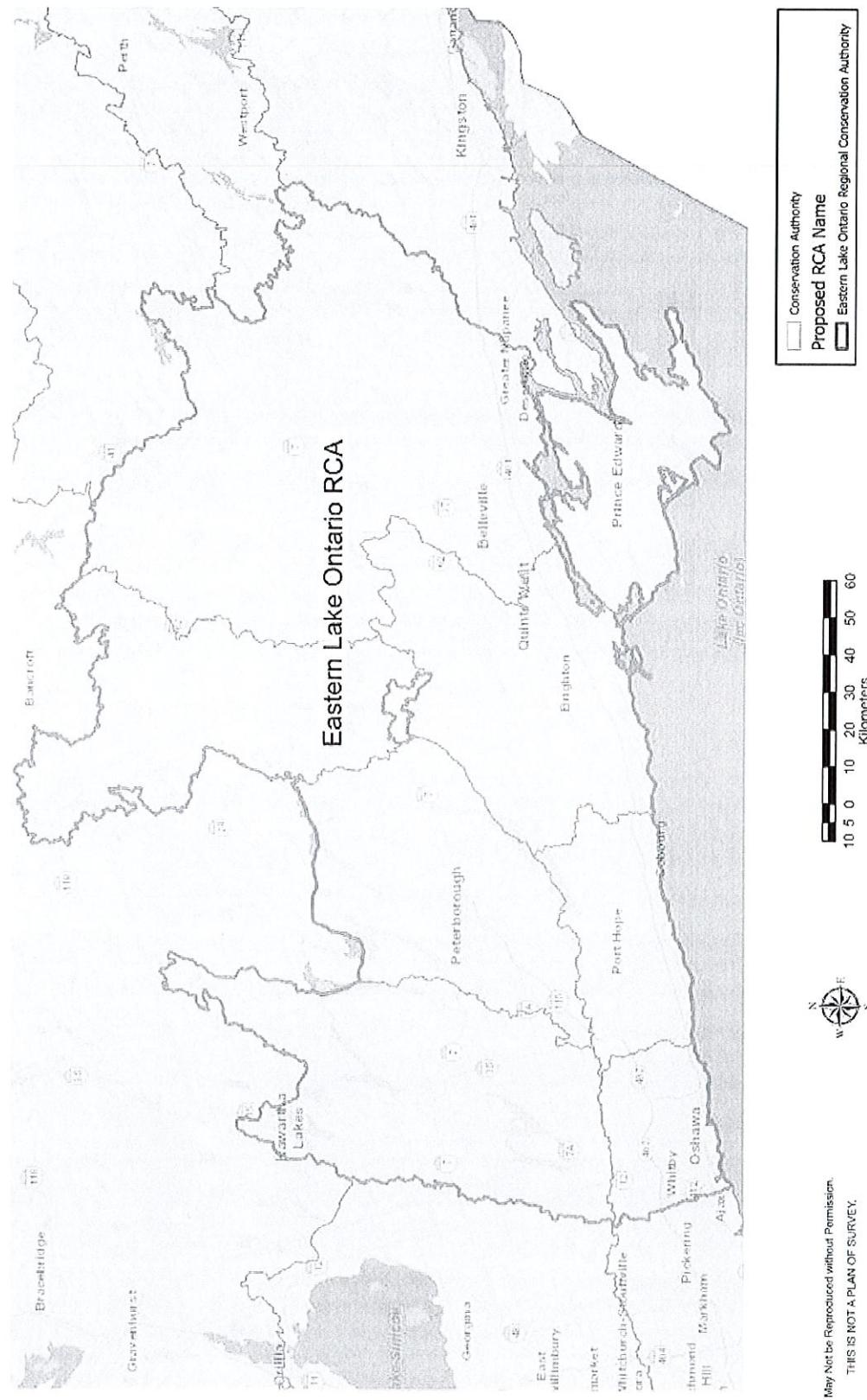
University of the Environment,  
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## Map of Proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

# EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



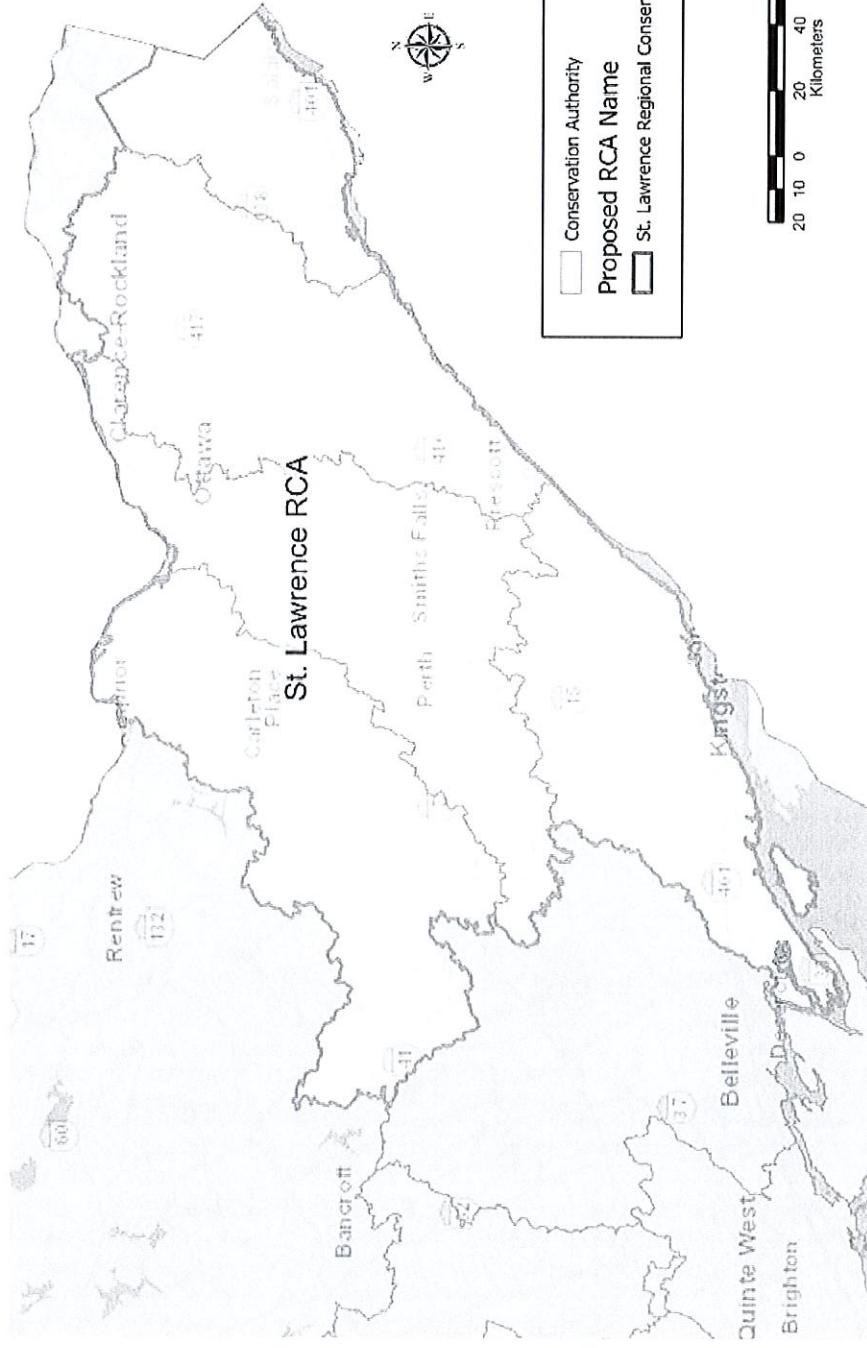
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## Map of Proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

### ST. LAWRENCE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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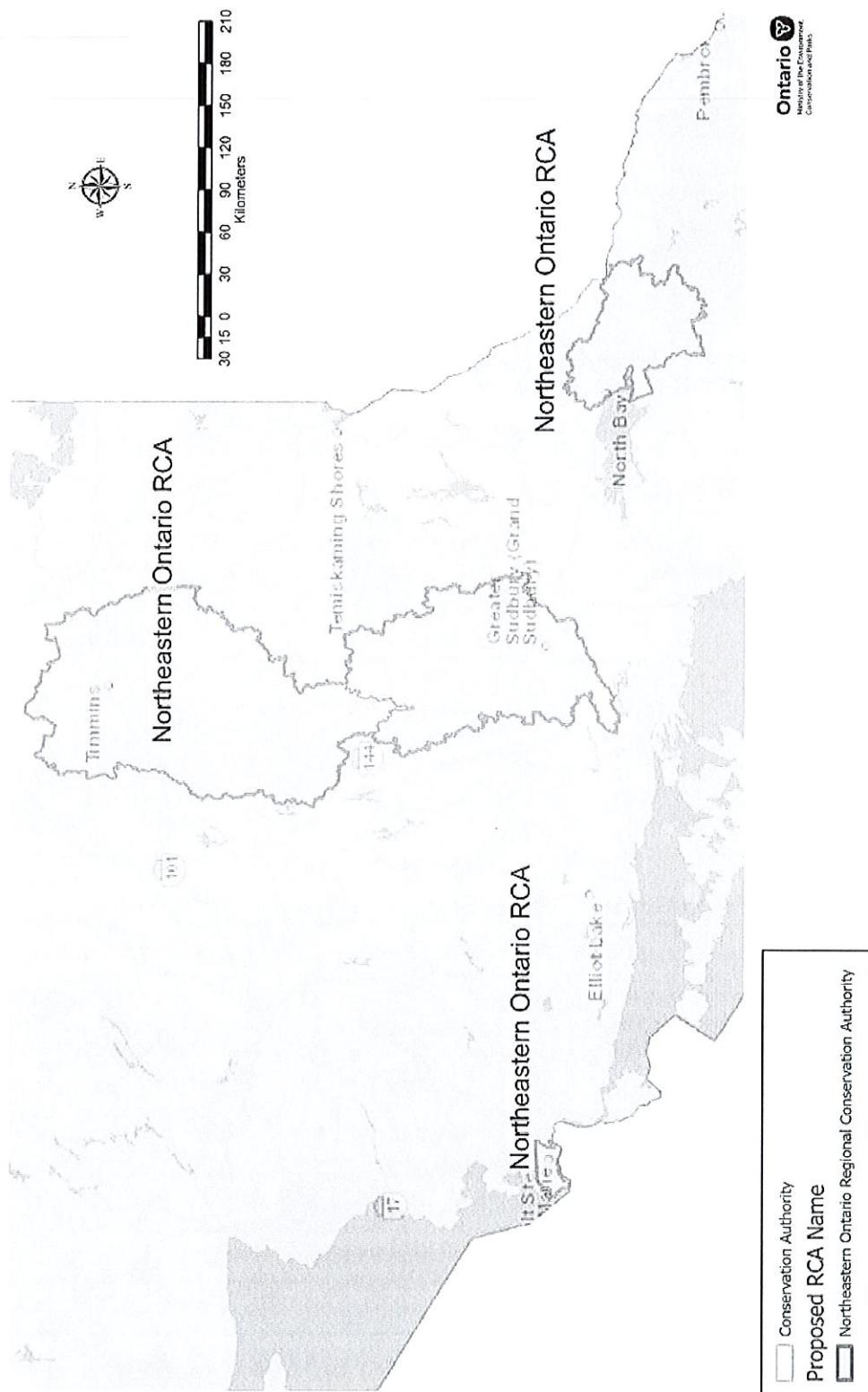


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## Map of Proposed Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

# NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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## **Listing of Municipalities and Conservation Authorities**

Below are listings of the current conservation authorities that are proposed to be included with each regional conservation authority, and of the municipalities that would fall within each proposed regional conservation authority.

### **Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority**

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Essex Region CA
- Lower Thames Valley CA
- St. Clair Region CA
- Upper Thames River CA
- Kettle Creek CA
- Catfish Creek CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brantford
- City of Cambridge
- City of Guelph
- City of Hamilton
- City of Kitchener
- City of London
- City of Sarnia
- City of St. Thomas
- City of Stratford
- City of Waterloo
- City of Windsor
- City of Woodstock
- County of Brant
- Haldimand County
- Municipality of Bayham
- Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston
- Municipality of Central Elgin
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich
- Municipality of Huron East
- Municipality of Lambton Shores
- Municipality of Leamington
- Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- Municipality of North Perth
- Municipality of South Huron
- Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
- Municipality of Thames Centre
- Municipality of West Elgin
- Municipality of West Perth
- Norfolk County
- Town of Amherstburg
- Town of Aylmer
- Town of Erin
- Town of Essex
- Town of Grand Valley
- Town of Halton Hills
- Town of Ingersoll
- Town of Kingsville
- Town of Lakeshore
- Town of Lasalle
- Town of Milton
- Town of Minto
- Town of Mono
- Town of Petrolia
- Town of Plympton-Wyoming
- Town of St. Marys
- Town of Tecumseh
- Town of Tillsonburg
- Township of Adelaide-Metcalf
- Township of Amaranth
- Township of Blandford-Blenheim
- Township of Centre Wellington
- Township of Dawn-Euphemia
- Township of East Garafraxa

- Township of East Zorra-Tavistock
- Township of Enniskillen
- Township of Guelph/Eramosa
- Township of Lucan Biddulph
- Township of Malahide
- Township of Mapleton
- Township of Melancthon
- Township of North Dumfries
- Township of Norwich
- Township of Pelee
- Township of Perth East
- Township of Perth South
- Township of Puslinch
- Township of Southgate
- Township of South-West Oxford
- Township of Southwold
- Township of St. Clair
- Township of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Township of Warwick
- Township of Wellesley
- Township of Wellington North
- Township of Wilmot
- Township of Woolwich
- Township of Zorra
- Village of Newbury
- Village of Oil Springs
- Village of Point Edward

### Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Ausable Bayfield CA
- Maitland Valley CA
- Saugeen Valley CA
- Grey Sauble CA
- Nottawasaga Valley CA
- Lake Simcoe Region CA
- Lakehead Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Barrie
- City of Kawartha Lakes
- City of Orillia
- City of Owen Sound
- City of Thunder Bay
- Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
- Municipality of Bluewater
- Municipality of Brockton
- Municipality of Central Huron
- Municipality of Grey Highlands
- Municipality of Huron East
- Municipality of Kincardine
- Municipality of Lambton Shores
- Municipality of Meaford
- Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- Municipality of Morris-Turnberry
- Municipality of Neebing
- Municipality of North Middlesex
- Municipality of North Perth
- Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge
- Municipality of Shuniah
- Municipality of South Bruce
- Municipality of South Huron
- Municipality of West Grey
- Municipality of West Perth
- Town of Aurora
- Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
- Town of Caledon
- Town of Collingwood
- Town of East Gwillimbury
- Town of Georgina
- Town of Goderich
- Town of Hanover
- Town of Innisfil
- Town of Minto
- Town of Mono
- Town of New Tecumseth
- Town of Newmarket

- Town of Richmond Hill
- Town of Saugeen Shores
- Town of Shelburne
- Town of South Bruce Peninsula
- Town of The Blue Mountains
- Town of Wasaga Beach
- Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
- Township of Adjala-Tosoronto
- Township of Amaranth
- Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
- Township of Brock
- Township of Chatsworth
- Township of Clearview
- Township of Conmee
- Township of Dorion
- Township of Essa
- Township of Georgian Bluffs
- Township of Gillies
- Township of Howick
- Township of Huron-Kinloss
- Township of King
- Township of Lucan Biddulph
- Township of Mapleton
- Township of Melancthon
- Township of Mulmur
- Township of North Huron
- Township of Oro-Medonte
- Township of Perth East
- Township of Perth South
- Township of Ramara
- Township of Scugog
- Township of Southgate
- Township of Springwater
- Township of Uxbridge
- Township of Warwick
- Township of Wellington North

### Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Niagara Peninsula CA
- Hamilton Region CA
- Halton Region CA
- Credit Valley CA

Municipalities that would fall within up the proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brampton
- City of Burlington
- City of Hamilton
- City of Mississauga
- City of Niagara Falls
- City of Port Colborne
- City of St. Catharines
- City of Thorold
- City of Toronto
- City of Welland
- Haldimand County
- Town of Caledon
- Town of Erin
- Town of Fort Erie
- Town of Grimsby
- Town of Halton Hills
- Town of Lincoln
- Town of Milton
- Town of Mono
- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Town of Oakville
- Town of Orangeville
- Town of Pelham
- Township of Amaranth

- Township of East Garafraxa
- Township of Puslinch
- Township of Wainfleet
- Township of West Lincoln

## Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Toronto and Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brampton
- City of Markham
- City of Mississauga
- City of Pickering
- City of Toronto
- City of Vaughan
- Town of Ajax
- Town of Aurora
- Town of Caledon
- Town of Mono
- Town of New Tecumseth
- Town of Richmond Hill
- Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
- Township of King
- Township of Scugog
- Township of Uxbridge

## Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Central Lake Ontario CA
- Kawartha Region CA
- Otonabee Region CA
- Ganaraska Region CA
- Lower Trent Region CA
- Crowe Valley CA
- Quinte Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Belleville
- City of Kawartha Lakes
- City of Oshawa
- City of Peterborough
- City of Pickering
- City of Quinte West
- County of Prince Edward County
- Municipality of Brighton
- Municipality of Centre Hastings
- Municipality of Clarington
- Municipality of Hastings Highlands
- Municipality of Highlands East
- Municipality of Marmora and Lake
- Municipality of Port Hope
- Municipality of Trent Hills

- Municipality of Trent Lakes
- Municipality of Tweed
- Town of Ajax
- Town of Cobourg
- Town of Deseronto
- Town of Greater Napanee
- Town of Whitby
- Township of Addington Highlands
- Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
- Township of Asphodel-Norwood
- Township of Brock
- Township of Cavan Monaghan
- Township of Central Frontenac
- Township of Cramahe
- Township of Douro-Dummer
- Township of Faraday
- Township of Hamilton
- Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
- Township of Limerick
- Township of Loyalist
- Township of Madoc
- Township of North Frontenac
- Township of North Kawartha
- Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan
- Township of Scugog
- Township of Selwyn
- Township of South Frontenac
- Township of Stirling-Rawdon
- Township of Stone Mills
- Township of Tudor and Cashel
- Township of Tyendinaga
- Township of Uxbridge
- Township of Wollaston

### St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Cataraqui Region CA
- Rideau Valley CA
- Mississippi Valley CA
- South Nation River CA
- Raisin Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brockville
- City of Clarence-Rockland
- City of Cornwall
- City of Kingston
- City of Ottawa
- Municipality of Mississippi Mills
- Municipality of North Grenville
- Municipality of South Dundas
- Municipality of The Nation
- Town of Carleton Place
- Town of Gananoque
- Town of Greater Napanee
- Town of Perth
- Town of Smiths Falls
- Township of Addington Highlands
- Township of Alfred and Plantagenet
- Township of Athens
- Township of Augusta
- Township of Beckwith
- Township of Central Frontenac
- Township of Champlain
- Township of Drummond/North Elmsley
- Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal
- Township of Elizabethtown-Kittley
- Township of Front of Yonge
- Township of Greater Madawaska
- Township of Lanark Highlands
- Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands
- Township of Loyalist
- Township of Montague
- Township of North Dundas
- Township of North Frontenac
- Township of North Glengarry

- Township of North Stormont
- Township of Rideau Lakes
- Township of Russell
- Township of South Frontenac
- Township of South Glengarry
- Township of South Stormont
- Township of Stone Mills
- Township of Tay Valley
- Village of Casselman
- Village of Merrickville-Wolford
- Village of Westport

## Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Nickel District CA
- Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
- Mattagami Region CA
- North Bay-Mattawa CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Northeastern Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Greater Sudbury
- City of North Bay
- City of Sault Ste. Marie
- City of Timmins
- Municipality of Callander
- Municipality of Powassan
- Municipality of East Ferris
- Town of Iroquois Falls
- Town of Mattawa
- Township of Black River-Matheson
- Township of Bonfield
- Township of Calvin
- Township of Chisholm
- Township of Matachewan
- Township of Mattawan
- Township of Nairn and Hyman
- Township of Nipissing
- Township of Papineau-Cameron
- Township of Prince

# Unpacking Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

Policy Update • November 02, 2022

Earlier this week Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 passed Second Reading and was referred to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy. AMO has requested to present at Committee and will submit written comments by the November 17 deadline.

Bill 23 is proceeding quickly through the legislature, which means it is likely to pass before many municipal Councils have been sworn in, and before the AMO Board can prepare a response. Given these tight timelines, AMO's responses to the legislation and regulatory and environmental registry postings associated with it will be informed by our AMO Housing Blueprint and other recent work.

Bill 23 and the province's new More Homes Built Faster Plan, as proposed, will have economic, social, and environmental implications that cannot be ignored. That is why AMO is releasing a preliminary analysis as it continues to work through the complex policy changes. It focuses on the following Schedules:

- Schedule 2 – *Conservation Authorities Act*
- Schedule 3 – *Development Charges Act, 1997*
- Schedule 4 – *Municipal Act, 2001*
- Schedule 6 – *Ontario Heritage Act*
- Schedule 7 – *Ontario Land Tribunal Act, 2021*
- Schedule 9 – *Planning Act.*

Examples below are intended to illustrate AMO's early thoughts on how to approach an overarching response to Bill 23 and its related consultations. It is not intended to be exhaustive

or inclusive of all proposed provisions.

**Bill 23 proposes numerous changes to the *Development Charges Act* and *Planning Act* that, if passed, will significantly impact how municipal governments recover the costs associated with growth.**

For example, Bill 23 proposes to exempt developers who build affordable, inclusionary zoning and select attainable housing units from paying development charges, parkland dedication fees, and community benefit charges. The bill also includes several additional changes, including reductions in costs associated with rental residential construction and changes to the method for determining development charges, amongst others.

The cumulative impact of proposed changes to municipal fees and charges is significant and contrary to the widely accepted concept that growth should pay for growth.

While AMO would like to support the province's housing objectives, it cannot support changes that largely place the burden of carrying the costs associated with development onto municipalities. AMO believes that the proposed changes may contradict the goal of building more housing in the long-term as it merely shifts the financial burden of growth-related infrastructure onto existing taxpayers.

Yesterday the AMO President sent a [letter](#) to the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, urging the province to address the funding shortfall associated with changes proposed under Bill 23. The province is expected to release its Fall Economic Statement on November 14.

**While some of the proposed amendments to the *Planning Act*, *Heritage Act*, *Ontario Land Tribunal Act*, and the *Conservation Authorities Act* have merit, it is unclear how these changes will improve a community's livability (i.e., connected to core infrastructure in an integrated and coordinated way).**

AMO understands the desire to reduce barriers to planning and development approvals so that housing can be built faster. That is why many municipalities have made investments to streamline and digitize their processes and are working to improve processes in response to Bill 109.

The proposed changes to increase transparency around the heritage designations and the process at the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) will require implementation by already under-resourced municipal staff. The OLT also needs to be properly resourced to eliminate the existing backlog. AMO will be looking for more clarity around what constitutes an "undue delay," and the policy intent behind having a municipality use property tax dollars to pay the successful party's cost if its case is unsuccessful at the OLT.

A broader issue, however, is understanding what the implications are of the reduced role in land use planning proposed for some upper-tier municipalities and conservation authorities. The proposal that an upper-tier municipality could provide advice and assistance to lower-tier municipalities if there is mutual agreement is appreciated, however, the proposals (particularly in Schedule 9) could have the unintended consequence of having local planning disconnected from the servicing requirements that many upper-tier municipalities are responsible for managing and funding.

**Many of the proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act* in Bill 23 are concerning, as they signal a move away from environmental protection at a time when climate change impacts are being felt more at the local level.**

Bill 23 proposes sweeping changes to the regulatory responsibilities of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities that, if passed, will undermine the collaborative and productive changes put forward by the Ministry led Conservation Authority Working Group over the past two years.

The proposals under Schedule 2 have raised confusion around how these changes will impact the *Conservation Authorities Act regulations* that recently came into effect. AMO is seeking further clarification to understand how these amendments will impact municipal budgets and environmental outcomes. At first glance, they seem to result in negative consequences (i.e., increased flooding, liability), at a time when the impacts of climate change are increasingly prevalent.

Another emerging area of concern is the proposal to allow pits and quarries to request official plan amendments within two years of a new official plan or secondary plan coming into effect. Finally, there are numerous environmental implications associated with the use of more land and the proposed reduction in revenues to build parkland.

## **Next Steps**

AMO continues to work with provincial ministries to understand the proposed changes under Bill 23. In the meantime, AMO is meeting with stakeholders and our Task Forces to inform our Standing Committee submission and our responses to the relevant consultation postings. A list of regulatory and environmental registry postings has been created to show what should be prioritized.

We recognize that this is a challenging time for AMO members to provide feedback due to the recent municipal elections. If your municipality is providing comments and would like to share them with AMO, please contact [policy@amo.on.ca](mailto:policy@amo.on.ca). We will continue to provide further updates to members as the Bill and consultations progress.