

From: ca.office (MECP) <ca.office@ontario.ca>

Sent: November 7, 2025 4:28 PM

To: ca.office (MECP) <ca.office@ontario.ca>

Subject: Consultation on the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

\.This.message.is.being.sent.on.behalf.of.Chloe.Stuart?Assistant.Deputy.Minister?Land.and.Water.Division?MECP.and.Hassaan.Basit?Chief.Conservation.Executive?MECP.\

Greetings,

We are writing to notify you of a policy proposal available for comment on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) at posting #025-1257 which is part of the government's actions to improve conservation authorities.

We are seeking feedback on proposed boundaries for the consolidation Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into regional conservation authorities, and the criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries. The policy proposal notice includes maps depicting the proposed boundaries for the regional conservation authorities and discussion questions relevant to the planning for the future state.

The province's decision on the number and configuration of regional conservation authorities will be finalized following further technical analysis and consideration of the feedback received during this consultation phase. The province is also planning to consult further, at a future date, on potential amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and regulations under the Act, to enable the consolidation of conservation authorities.

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. Regional conservation authorities would continue to deliver provincially mandated programs. These include drinking water source protection under the Clean Water Act, managing development and other activities in areas at risk of natural hazards—such as floodplains, shorelines, watercourses, and wetlands—and providing flood forecasting and warning services. Conservation authorities would continue to manage their lands and recreational trails, providing Ontarians access to local natural areas and outdoor activities. Regional conservation authorities would also continue to be able to provide additional municipal

and other watershed programs and services set out under the Conservation Authorities Act. Existing conservation authority board members would continue to serve until the expiration of their terms next year, with changes to governance and structure to be initiated following municipal elections in October 2026.

This proposal is part of broader action that Ontario is proposing to take to improve the conservation authority system to reduce duplicative costs, free-up resources, and better align the work of conservation authorities with provincial priorities on housing, infrastructure, the economy and climate resilience. These actions include the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to provide centralized leadership and oversight of conservation authorities, proposed by the Government on November 6, 2025, in [Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act \(Budget Measures\)](#) ²⁸⁶⁸ .

To learn more about this proposal, a virtual information session for municipalities will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 2pm. To register for this session, please email ca.office@ontario.ca.

The Environmental Registry comment period for posting #025-1257 will close at 11:59pm on December 22, 2025. Comments may be submitted through the Registry or by email to the conservation authorities section team at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, via ca.office@ontario.ca.

Thank you,

Chloe Stuart
ADM, Land and Water Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Hassaan Basit
Chief Conservation Executive

Office of the Chief Conservation Executive



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