



# Town of Newmarket Council Information Package

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Date: December 19, 2025

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#### **Information Reports**

None.

**From:** EA Modernization (MECP) <[EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca](mailto:EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca)>  
**Sent:** December 5, 2025 1:15 PM  
**To:** EA Modernization (MECP) <[EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca](mailto:EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca)>  
**Subject:** Seeking input on a revised proposal for a new environmental assessment regulation for municipal infrastructure

**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from the Director of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Modernization Branch at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

The letter provides an update on the proposal to revoke the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) and introduce a streamlined environmental assessment (EA) regulation called the Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP). This proposal is part of Ontario's broader initiative to modernize the EA program.

Please note the updated proposal has been posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-7891>, for a 60-day public comment period.

We invite municipalities and other key stakeholders to join one of two upcoming webinars to learn more about the proposal and the changes being considered since the previous posting. Links to join the sessions will be shared in January.

- January 21, 2026, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET
- January 23, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET

Please note that the comment period for the proposal ends on February 3, 2026, (60-days from posting on ERO).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

The EA Modernization Team



**Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks**

Environmental Assessment  
Modernization Branch

135 St. Clair Avenue West  
4th Floor  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

**Ministère de l'Environnement, de  
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs**

Direction de la modernisation des processus  
d'évaluation environnementale

135, avenue St. Clair Ouest  
4<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5



December 5, 2025

**Subject: Update on the proposed environmental assessment regulation for municipal infrastructure**

Good afternoon,

I am writing to share an update on the proposed Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP), a new environmental assessment (EA) regulation for certain municipal infrastructure projects. If implemented, this regulation would replace the current Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA).

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (ministry) continues to modernize Ontario's EA program. Our goal is to reduce delays for critical infrastructure projects, while maintaining strong environmental protections and opportunities for public consultation.

**Background**

In March 2023, we posted an initial proposal on the Environmental Registry to review EA requirements for municipal infrastructure projects.

In February 2024, we began consulting on a more detailed proposal for regulations under Part II.4 of the amended Environmental Assessment Act. These regulations would identify municipal projects subject to the streamlined EA process outlined in the proposed MPAP regulation.

**Next steps**

We appreciate the feedback received so far. In response to input received during earlier consultations, we are considering changes to the February 2024 proposal. These updates are outlined in the [updated proposal posting](#).

The ministry is seeking your input as we finalize the streamlined EA project list and process regulation.

**Provide comments**

For details on the updated proposal and to provide your input, visit:  
<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-7891>.

The comment period is open until **February 3, 2026 (60 days)**.

If you have questions, please contact the EA Modernization team at:  
[EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your continued engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Cross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "A" being large and prominent.

Annamaria Cross  
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



# <sup>5</sup> *Township of Addington Highlands*

---

November 10, 2025

The Town of Newmarket  
395 Mulock Dr  
PO Box 328 Station Main  
Newmarket ON L3Y 4X7  
Email: [clerks@newmarket.ca](mailto:clerks@newmarket.ca)

Re: Letter of Support – Automatic Speed Enforcement

To Whom It May Concern,

Please be advised that at their November 4, 2025, meeting, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Addington Highlands resolved to support the resolution from the Town of Newmarket requesting that the Ontario Government consider the following amendments to address Provincial concerns; only implement ASE in school zones; and establish a province-wide minimum threshold over the speed limit at which tickets are issued; and require extensive communication campaigns warning drivers that ASE cameras will be implemented, including warning tickets, well ahead of activating the cameras, and install permanent flashing signs at the camera locations; and establish a maximum fine amount for ASE, and establish a maximum number of cameras per municipality.

I trust you will find this letter of support satisfactory.

Sincerely,

*Christine Reed*

Christine Reed  
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

cc. Hon. Doug Ford – Premier of Ontario – [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria – Minister of Transportation – [minister.mto@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mto@ontario.ca)  
Hon. Michael Kerzner – Solicitor General – [minister.solgen@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.solgen@ontario.ca)  
The Association Municipalities of Ontario – [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)  
Ric Bresee – MPP Hastings & Lennox and Addington – [ric.bresee@pc.ola.org](mailto:ric.bresee@pc.ola.org)

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;



- Conservation Authorities; and
- Conservation Ontario.

Kind regards,

*Julie Clayton*

Julie Clayton, Deputy Clerk  
[julie.clayton@ingersoll.ca](mailto:julie.clayton@ingersoll.ca)

cc: Ernie Hardeman, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oxford  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)  
Area Indigenous Communities  
All municipalities  
Conservation Authorities  
Conservation Ontario



**Legal Services / Clerk's Department**

789 Broadway Street, Box 3000  
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

Telephone: 519-845-0801

Toll-free: 1-866-324-6912

Fax: 519-845-0818

**Sent Via Email**

December 9, 2025

Simon Granat  
Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services  
Town of Newmarket  
395 Mulock Drive, PO BOX 328 STN Main  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

**Attention: Simon Grant**

Simon:

**Re: Automated Speed Enforcement Resolution**

Please be advised that at its regular meeting on November 19, 2025, Lambton County Council received and filed correspondence #PW 11-05-25, a resolution from Simon Granat, Legislative Coordinator, dated October 7, 2025, regarding The Town of Newmarket's opposition to the Ontario Government's proposal to cancel municipal Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE programs).

The following motion was passed:

#1: Broad/Sagean: That correspondence PW 11-05-25 be received and filed.  
Carried.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require anything further.

Sincerely,

Jason Cole  
General Manager, Infrastructure & Development Services

Encl. # PW 11-05-25

October 7, 2025

Sent via email

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P., Premier of Ontario, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1, [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, M.P.P., Minister of Transportation, 5<sup>th</sup> Flr, 777 Bay St. Toronto, ON, M7A 1Z8, [minister.mto@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mto@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General, M.P.P., Solicitor General, George Drew Bldg., 25 Grosvenor St. Toronto, ON, M7A 1Y6, [Minister.SOLGEN@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.SOLGEN@ontario.ca)

Ms. Dawn Gallagher Murphy, M.P.P., Unit 22, 16635 Yonge St., Newmarket, ON, L3X 1V6, [dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org](mailto:dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org)

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), 155 University Ave., Suite 800, Toronto, ON, M5H 3B7, [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

All Ontario Municipalities

**RE:** Automated Speed Enforcement Resolution – Town of Newmarket

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I am writing to advise you that at the Council meeting held on October 6, 2025, the Town of Newmarket Council adopted the following recommendations regarding the above referenced matter:

Whereas Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) is by far the most effective speed mitigation and safety tool that municipalities have had access to; and,

Whereas The Ontario Safety League has expressed that ASE is effective and that it supports the use of ASE; and,

Whereas The Ontario Association Chiefs of Police has expressed that ASE is effective and that it supports the use of ASE; and,

Whereas The Hospital for Sick Children and Toronto Metropolitan University have studied ASE and found that speed is the single most important factor in pedestrian injury risk and ASE can be an effective way to reduce that risk, especially in areas where children are most vulnerable; and,

Whereas The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) found that 73 percent of Ontario drivers slow down when nearing an ASE camera and 52 percent shared that they are unlikely to speed up after they pass through an ASE zone; and,



**Legislative Services**  
 Town of Newmarket  
 395 Mulock Drive  
 P.O. Box 328 Station Main  
 Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

clerks@newmarket.ca  
 tel.: 905-953-5300  
 fax: 905-953-5100

Whereas ASE frees up more time for police officers to attend to serious crimes, such as home invasions and auto theft; and,

Whereas One of the top complaints that Council has received from residents for decades is speeding on residential streets; and,

Whereas Since implementing ASE, Newmarket has observed between 58 percent and 90 percent reductions in the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit in the community safety zones with automated speed enforcement; and,

Whereas the Town's ASE program has recorded speeds of 125 km/hr, 113 km/h, and 96 km/h in school zones with speed limits of 40 km/h.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket opposes the Ontario Government's proposal to cancel municipal ASE programs; and,
2. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket requests the Premier of Ontario or Minister of Transportation meet with municipal leaders to develop provincial legislation, regulations and standards to ensure municipal ASE programs are fair, transparent and consistent throughout Ontario as opposed to eliminating the programs; and,
3. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket requests that the Ontario Government consider the following amendments to address Provincial concerns:
  - Only implement ASE in school zones; and,
  - Establish a province-wide minimum threshold over the speed limit at which tickets are issued; and,
  - Require extensive communication campaigns warning drivers that ASE cameras will be implemented, including warning tickets, well ahead of activating the cameras, and install permanent flashing signs at the camera locations; and,
  - Establish a maximum fine amount for ASE, and,
  - Establish a maximum number of cameras per municipality, and,
4. That copies of this motion be distributed to the following:
  - Premier Doug Ford; and,
  - Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; and,
  - Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General; and,
  - Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP, Newmarket -- Aurora; and,
  - All Ontario Municipalities; and,
  - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario.



**Legislative Services**  
Town of Newmarket  
395 Mulock Drive  
P.O. Box 328 Station Main  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

clerks@newmarket.ca  
tel.: 905-953-5300  
fax: 905-953-5100

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Granat", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Granat  
Legislative Coordinator



**Office of the Executive Director**  
**1525 Cornwall Road**  
**Oakville ON**  
**L6J 0B2**

[dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca](mailto:dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca)

## **MEA APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT 2025 AGM**

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) is a non-profit association representing the interests of over 1,270 professional engineers in Ontario who are employed in the municipal engineering and public works sectors at Ontario municipalities and provincial agencies, as well as consulting engineering firms acting as the engineer-of-record for Ontario municipalities.

MEA's many pursuits include being the co-proponent for the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process and, together with the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, MEA administers Ontario Provincial Standards for Municipalities (OPS MUNI) where many of our members participate in committees that establish standards and specifications used province wide. MEA also provides training courses for both MCEA and OPS as well as hosting an annual conference providing technical training sessions.

The MEA is the preferred venue for Ontario municipalities to recruit professional municipal engineers and technologists/technicians through our online employment advertising platform.

MEA provides an annual bursary program to students entering the first year of an accredited university engineering program. Since 2008, the MEA has awarded \$219,000 in bursaries.

The MEA held its 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at RBC Place Conference Centre in London on November 13, 2025. At the AGM, a new Board was elected. We are pleased to present the new Board for the 2025/2026 term as well as MEA staff (see attachment).

Please share this with members of your organization. Should you have any questions about the MEA or the new Board, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan', is positioned above a horizontal line.

---

D.M. (Dan) Cozzi, P. Eng.  
Executive Director  
Municipal Engineers Association

Attachment:

MEA Board of Directors and Staff 2025-2026

## 2025-2026 MEA Board of Directors & Staff



**Penelope Palmer , P. Eng.,  
President**  
Manager, Strategic Initiatives  
City of Toronto  
[President@municipalengineers.on.ca](mailto:President@municipalengineers.on.ca)



**Scott Hamilton, P. Eng.  
First Vice-President**  
Commissioner of Public Works  
City of Burlington  
[Scott.Hamilton@burlington.on.ca](mailto:Scott.Hamilton@burlington.on.ca)



**Paul Acquaah, P. Eng.  
Second Vice-President**  
Mgr of Engineering  
York Region  
[Paul.acquaah@york.ca](mailto:Paul.acquaah@york.ca)



**Benjamin de Haan, P. Eng.  
Secretary-Treasurer**  
CAO  
Municipality of South Dundas  
[bdehaan@southdundas.com](mailto:bdehaan@southdundas.com)



**Taylor Crinklaw, P.Eng.  
Past-President**  
Director – Infrs. & Dev.Services  
City of Stratford  
[tcrinklaw@stratford.ca](mailto:tcrinklaw@stratford.ca)



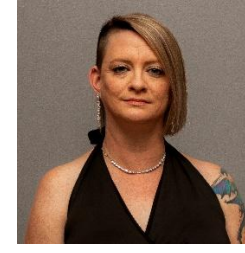
**Tim Marotta, P. Eng.  
Board Director**  
Director of Municipal Works  
City of St. Catharines  
[Paul.acquaah@york.ca](mailto:Paul.acquaah@york.ca)



**Tara Blasioli, P. Eng.  
Board Director**  
Mgr – Adisöke Library Project  
City of Ottawa  
[Tara.Blasoli@ottawa.ca](mailto:Tara.Blasoli@ottawa.ca)



**Joe de Koning, P. Eng.  
Board Director**  
Manager of Roads  
County of Wellington  
[joedk@wellington.ca](mailto:joedk@wellington.ca)



**Ashley Rammeloo, P., Eng  
Board Director**  
Dir. Water/Wastewater/Stormwater  
City of London  
[arammelo@London.ca](mailto:arammelo@London.ca)



**Imran Khalid, P. Eng.  
Board Director**  
Director of Public Works  
Huron County  
[ikhalid@huroncounty.ca](mailto:ikhalid@huroncounty.ca)



**Dan Cozzi, P. Eng.  
Executive Director**  
MEA  
[dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca](mailto:dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca)



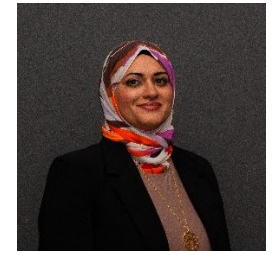
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**Paul Knowles, P. Eng.  
MCEA Advisor**  
MEA  
[paul.knowles@municipalengineers.on.ca](mailto:paul.knowles@municipalengineers.on.ca)



**Arup Mukherjee, P. Eng.  
OPS Instructor**  
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**Seher Taufiq  
Admin Support**  
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[support@municipalengineers.on.ca](mailto:support@municipalengineers.on.ca)





25 November 2025

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, I am pleased to share our report, "Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress", on the status of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP).

Sixteen years after the Plan's adoption, Lake Simcoe is still under pressure: phosphorus pollution exceeds targets, chloride levels are rising and several key policy safeguards have weakened. Yet shoreline municipalities—including your own—have shown real leadership through capital investment, green-infrastructure pilots and community engagement. The trilateral investment in the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Facility is the largest single step forward so far and shows what collaboration can achieve.

These achievements deserve recognition, but they also make clear that municipal leadership alone cannot deliver full watershed recovery. Our report aims to restore policy momentum, align funding across levels of government and scale up successful municipal initiatives across the watershed.

Given your municipality's role in implementing the LSPP, I would welcome the opportunity to appear as a deputation before Council to present the report's findings and recommendations.

Lake Simcoe is a vital ecological, recreational and economic anchor for our region, supporting biodiversity, drinking water, and quality of life for more than half a million residents. Its protection is urgent and shared.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how we can work together to move from good goals to practical, measurable progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Scott".

Jonathan Scott

Executive Director, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition



# Protect Our Plan

From Good Goals to  
Practical Progress



**Protect Our Plan:  
From Good Goals to Practical Progress**

Prepared by Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.

Published November 2025.

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# Introduction

Lake Simcoe is one of Ontario's most important freshwater ecosystems. It is vital to the ecological health, cultural identity and economic wellbeing of the region. Spanning more than 3,400 square kilometres, the watershed supports over half a million residents, dozens of communities and a diversity of natural systems, from coldwater fish habitat to wetlands and woodlands. With hundreds of working farms, including The Holland Marsh specialty crop area, and significant economic activity from tourism—including swimming, boating, fishing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, hiking and summer cottages—the health of the Lake is intrinsically linked to the economic success of the region.

Since 2009, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) has provided a science-based framework to protect and restore the watershed. It sets out ambitious goals: to reduce phosphorus pollution to 44 tonnes per year, protect 40% high-quality natural cover from forests and wetlands, restore dissolved oxygen for fish habitat and embed watershed science into land-use planning. These goals remain sound—but they are increasingly at risk.

From 2009 to 2015, the LSPP was supported by robust federal and provincial investment, coordinated governance and a strong mandate for local implementation. In recent years, however, this foundation has eroded. Federal funding declined sharply after 2015 with the expiration of the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund. At the same time, provincial legislation has weakened key protections, and the phosphorus reduction strategy has not been updated in over a decade, even as pollution levels remain well above target.

In the face of these challenges, municipalities and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) have stepped up. From capital investments like the Phosphorus Reduction Facility to green infrastructure pilots, stormwater retrofits and data partnerships, local leadership has been strong, yet fragmented. Without clear performance tracking, sustained senior government funding and modernized governance, these efforts risk becoming isolated wins in a fragmented system. Local efforts are commendable, but the lake requires an integrated, watershed-wide plan and renewed federal and provincial engagement.

# Executive Summary

Sixteen years after the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) was launched, the watershed remains under significant ecological stress. This report reviews the Plan's implementation, current scientific conditions and policy trends across federal, provincial and municipal levels.

The costs of inaction are mounting. Declining water quality drives higher municipal expenses for stormwater systems, with significant deferred maintenance for stormwater ponds and linear drainage assets requiring funding, alongside road maintenance. We are also seeing an increase in public-health advisories related to beach closures, while lost fisheries and recreational opportunities mean forgone revenue for local communities.

Yet progress is possible. The LSRCA and the larger shoreline municipalities, in particular, have pioneered effective local projects, from the Phosphorus Reduction Facility to stormwater retrofits, low-impact development techniques and wetland restoration. These successes now need coordination and scaling up.

**This report outlines thirteen recommendations to restore policy momentum.**

The message is clear: we must protect the plan that protects the lake with strong policy, smart investment, and tangible incentives that reward conservation and good governance.

# Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Background

Enabled by the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*, 2008, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan is Ontario's most comprehensive watershed-based strategy. It was created to address declining water quality, rising phosphorus pollution, habitat loss and the impacts of growing urban development.

## The core goals of the plan are to:



Reduce phosphorus pollution to 44 tonnes per year  
(from ~78 tonnes per year pre-2009)



Reduce pathogen loading to eliminate beach closures



Maintain dissolved oxygen at  $\geq 7$  mg/L to support coldwater fish habitat



Achieve a minimum 40% high-quality natural cover across the watershed



Improve stormwater management and wastewater performance



Support subwatershed monitoring, scientific research and intergovernmental coordination

## Implementation partners include:

Ontario



Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)



Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)

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Municipalities and First Nations



Environmental non-profits, agricultural and development sectors, and the public.



# State of the Lake

Sixteen years after the launch of the LSPP, the watershed remains under significant ecological pressure. Key scientific indicators highlight some areas of progress and several areas of continuing decline.

## Phosphorus Pollution

Annual phosphorus loads remain at ~70–110 tonnes—double the Plan’s 44-tonne target. While sewage-treatment plant upgrades have increased the efficacy of treatment plants, growth has meant these system improvements have merely held the line on phosphorus loading. The proposed Phosphorus Reduction Facility in Bradford is expected to remove 2–10% of phosphorus pollution, but more reductions across stormwater and septic systems are needed.

## Fish Health

Cisco populations fluctuate, burbot are improving, but lake trout and whitefish continue to struggle with natural reproduction. Stocking sustains these species, while warm-water fish such as perch and bass remain generally healthy and resilient. However, invasive species and climate-driven changes continue to pose increasing threats to the lake’s native fish community.

## Dissolved Oxygen

Dissolved oxygen levels in the lake’s coldwater zone, critical for lake trout and whitefish survival, remain volatile. Monitoring from 2019–23 shows concentrations ranging from 4.0 to 6.9 mg/L, which is better than the 1990s but still often below the 7 mg/L target.

## High-Quality Natural Cover

In 2009, forests and wetlands comprised approximately 35% of the watershed’s land-area, and about 61% of the land was subject to some form of provincial protection. The LSPP includes a goal often expressed as striving for 40% “high-quality natural cover”. Ongoing fragmentation and land-use change are diminishing the watershed’s capacity to filter nutrients, provide flood-water storage, and maintain shade and habitat for temperature-sensitive species. Strengthening protection and restoration of well-connected natural areas remains fundamental to meeting the broader outcomes of the Plan.



### Chloride (Road Salt)

Concentrations rose from ~40 mg/L in 2010 to ~61 mg/L in 2024, with tributary spikes up to >26,000 mg/L in urban areas—far above aquatic health thresholds. Lake Simcoe is on a trajectory to reach the federal chronic Chloride level of 120mg/L by 2058. No provincial chloride reduction targets or strategies exist. Elevated road-salt use has also increased sodium levels in some municipal drinking-water sources, posing public-health concerns for residents on sodium-restricted diets and adding costs to local water treatment.

### Impervious Cover

Urbanization continues to reshape the watershed. Impervious surfaces have increased from roughly 3% in 2003 to about 5% today. Given the rapid pace of growth, the increase being relatively low reflects the benefits of densification. According to the LSRCA, subwatersheds such as East Holland River (13%), Lovers Creek (14%) and Hewitt's Creek (8%) remain below the critical 25–30% threshold where stream health typically declines sharply, but ongoing growth is pushing them closer. Once those thresholds are crossed, water-quality decline becomes difficult to reverse.

### Harmful Algal Blooms (Cyanobacteria)

Blue-green algae blooms have appeared the last two summers, driven by warm temperatures, calm water and nutrient enrichment. Several water quality advisories in 2023 and 2024 closed beaches for weeks, affecting recreation and local tourism. These blooms can produce toxins harmful to people, pets and wildlife. While variability remains high, the trend is worsening, underscoring the need to reduce nutrient loading and manage climate-related drivers.

### Invasive Species

Quagga mussels have overtaken zebra mussels; round goby are widespread; starry stonewort is entrenched, though it has gone through “boom and bust” cycles; and in 2024, water soldier was confirmed near Keswick and Innisfil as a significant emerging threat, especially to Cook's Bay. These invasions alter food webs and complicate recovery.

### Climate Change

Warming temperatures, earlier stratification and more intense rainfall events are exacerbating phosphorus release, lowering deep-water oxygen and favouring invasive species.

## STATE OF THE LAKE

# Overall Assessment

Scientific monitoring shows a mixed picture for Lake Simcoe. Phosphorus concentrations have slightly declined or held flat, albeit well above the 44-tonne target, and deep-water oxygen levels have improved, indicating some success in nutrient management. Forest and wetland cover have remained broadly stable, though still below targets for ecosystem resilience. At the same time, chloride levels continue to rise, climate pressures are intensifying and impervious surface area is increasing, even as “per capita” imperviousness declines through more compact development.

Overall, these trends show that **while localized improvements have occurred, many key indicators are static or worsening.** The goals of the LSPP remain sound, but progress has stalled. Without renewed coordination, stable funding and science-based regulation, the lake risks drifting further from recovery.

Methodology and detailed data tables supporting this section are provided in the Appendices.



# **Analysis of Federal, Provincial and Municipal Policies and Programmes**

# Federal Government

## *Strategic projects, but a retreat from sustained funding*

From 2015–2025, the federal government invested \$24.7 million in twenty projects across ten municipalities under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF) and the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF). These projects largely targeted upgrades to stormwater and wastewater systems. Most notably, \$16 million was delivered toward the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Facility in Bradford—a long-delayed project expected to remove 2-12 tonnes of phosphorus annually from the Holland Marsh basin before it reaches the lake.

However, this period also marks a significant decline in federal funding compared to the 2008-2015 Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund (LSCUF), which delivered \$59.9 million across more than 200 projects, averaging \$8.5 million per

year. The post-2015 era has seen fewer projects and, simply put, less funding reduces the ability to achieve the Plan's goals. The recently released 2026 Federal Budget did not fulfill prior promises to restore funding to at least \$40 million, although rumoured cuts also did not occur.

While the federal government deserves credit for funding its share of the Phosphorus Reduction Facility, sustained and transparent investments are urgently needed, particularly to support smaller municipalities, subwatershed data reporting, stormwater retrofits, wastewater upgrades and other capital improvements.

# Comparing Federal Investment Eras

	2008-2015 (LSCUF)	2015-2025 (Post-LSCUF)
<b>Federal Investment</b>	\$59.9M	\$24.7M + \$4.1M
<b>Delivery Model</b>	Dedicated fund	General infrastructure funds
<b>Projects Funded</b>	~200	~30
<b>Project Types</b>	Community, retrofits, outreach, research	Capital-heavy
<b>Major Achievements</b>	2-4 tonnes/year phosphorus reduction	Projected 2-10 tonnes/year from one facility
<b>Monitoring/Reporting</b>	Locally reported	Harder to trace
<b>Alignment with LSPP</b>	Strong	More ad hoc

## Key Takeaway

While 2015–2025 includes funding for the single largest phosphorus project to date, the LSCUF era offered more diverse, locally grounded and performance-linked funding. Ensuring a dedicated Lake Simcoe federal funding program through the Freshwater Action Fund

would restore momentum. Despite recent investments, annual phosphorus loads remain ~88 tonnes—unchanged from pre-2010 levels—underscoring the need for sustained and diversified federal programming beyond single capital projects.

# Provincial Government

*Important investments, but regulatory weakening and strategic drift*

Ontario is the steward of the LSPP. In 2022, the province committed \$24 million to the Phosphorus Reduction Facility, its largest single capital investment for Lake

Simcoe water quality to date. Since 2018, an additional \$13 million has supported scientific research, runoff tracking, chloride studies and urban restoration.

## Recent provincial initiatives include:

- \$3 million to fund filtration of wash water from agriculture;
- \$165,250 to the Holland Marsh Growers Association for phosphorus-smart fertilizer practices;
- \$63,599 for phosphorus monitoring in drainage canals;
- \$115,000 to Toronto Metropolitan University to study chloride discharge from stormwater ponds;
- \$69,114 for chemical contaminant tracking in lake and tributary sediments; and
- Preservation of the North Gwillimbury Forest from development as a future conservation area.

### **Despite this funding, regulatory and implementation weaknesses have emerged:**

- The Phosphorus Reduction Strategy, 2010 has not been revised despite phosphorus pollution remaining well above target.
- Advisory bodies like the Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee and Science Committee appear inactive or under-resourced, seemingly without scientific leadership.
- Conservation Authorities' planning roles were curtailed by Bill 23, reducing oversight of development impacts. The recent proposal to dramatically consolidate Conservation Authorities also potentially risks reducing focus on the Lake Simcoe watershed should the LSRCA be subsumed into a mega-regional conservation authority that includes all of the conservation regions in Lake Huron and Lake Superior up to Thunder Bay.
- Reporting from the MECP has become less transparent, although LSRCA reporting has increased.

Wetland and forest protections, once embedded in provincial policy, have been rolled back, leaving thousands of hectares of natural cover vulnerable. Other changes by the province to environmental protections have caused further risks to our natural heritage. These natural features are critical to filtering runoff and achieving the LSPP's 40% high-quality natural cover goal.

Chloride levels in the Lake itself have risen from ~40 mg/L in 2010 to 61 mg/L in 2024, with several tributaries exceeding the LSRCA's 50 mg/L threshold for aquatic health. Yet, the province has not set reduction targets, leaving a major gap in the LSPP framework.

### **Key Takeaway**

Ontario's capital investments will play a vital role in Lake Simcoe's restoration, but long-term success will depend on rebuilding governance capacity, re-establishing science-based

regulatory oversight, and improving data transparency and public reporting to align implementation with the LSPP objectives.

# Municipal Governments

*Leading on implementation,  
but needing partners*

All municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed—shoreline and inland alike—play vital roles in implementation of the LSPP. Municipalities manage most of the infrastructure and land-use decisions affecting water quality. Collectively, they also contribute roughly \$9.5 million annually to the LSRCA’s operating levy, oversee billions in infrastructure assets and invest heavily in stormwater, wastewater and green-infrastructure improvements.

While shoreline municipalities tend to manage the largest water-facing assets, inland communities are making important progress integrating low-impact development, stormwater retrofits and natural-cover restoration into their growth plans. Aurora’s leading work on low-impact development standards and Newmarket’s green infrastructure retrofits show how inland municipalities

are helping reduce nutrient and salt loading before water reaches the lake.

Inland and headwater municipalities—including New Tecumseth, Oro-Medonte, Ramara, Brock and others—contribute through stormwater retrofits, agricultural best-management practices and source-water protection planning. Many partner with LSRCA through cost-share programmes that support rural stewardship, urban stormwater retrofits and habitat restoration.

Sustaining and scaling these municipal efforts—both shoreline and inland—will require stable provincial and federal support, modernized policy tools and consistent watershed-wide reporting to demonstrate collective progress toward the LSPP’s goals.



# Recent Municipal Investments

The following examples highlight major recent shoreline-area investments that demonstrate the scale and innovation needed for full delivery of the Plan.

## Bradford West Gwillimbury

- Phosphorus Reduction Facility: Coordinating multi-government funding and engineering oversight for the \$40-million plant near the Holland Marsh basin, capable of removing up to 10% of the phosphorus reduction target per annum;
- LittaTrap Pilot: Capturing debris, sediment and microplastics from stormwater grates before entering the Holland River;
- Snow Storage and Filtration Facility: \$2.9M site filtering pollutant-laden meltwater;
- Vegetated Buffer Strip Pilot: Intercepting phosphorus runoff in agricultural drainage areas; and
- Ducks Unlimited Partnership: Supporting 434-acre Holland River Wetland Restoration.

## Barrie

- \$261M upgrade to its Water Pollution Control Centre, with \$125 M+ awarded to Maple-Bird JV for advanced treatment works—including new aeration, membrane bioreactor systems and solids handling—to meet phosphorus limits and renew capacity as the project expands treatment volume while maintaining some of the most stringent effluent standards in Canada, demonstrating how growth can be accommodated without increasing nutrient loads to the lake;
- Ongoing retrofits to stormwater outfalls and water quality monitoring programmes; and
- Stable water/wastewater rate structures funding long-term capital planning.

## Innisfil

- Planning a \$290M wastewater treatment plant upgrade, with phosphorus offsets required for new development, allowing growth within existing environmental obligations by improving performance, not relaxing standards;
- Releasing Master Servicing Plans and annual sewage system performance reports; and
- Launching stormwater restoration projects with LSRCA partnership.

## Recent Municipal Investments (cont'd)

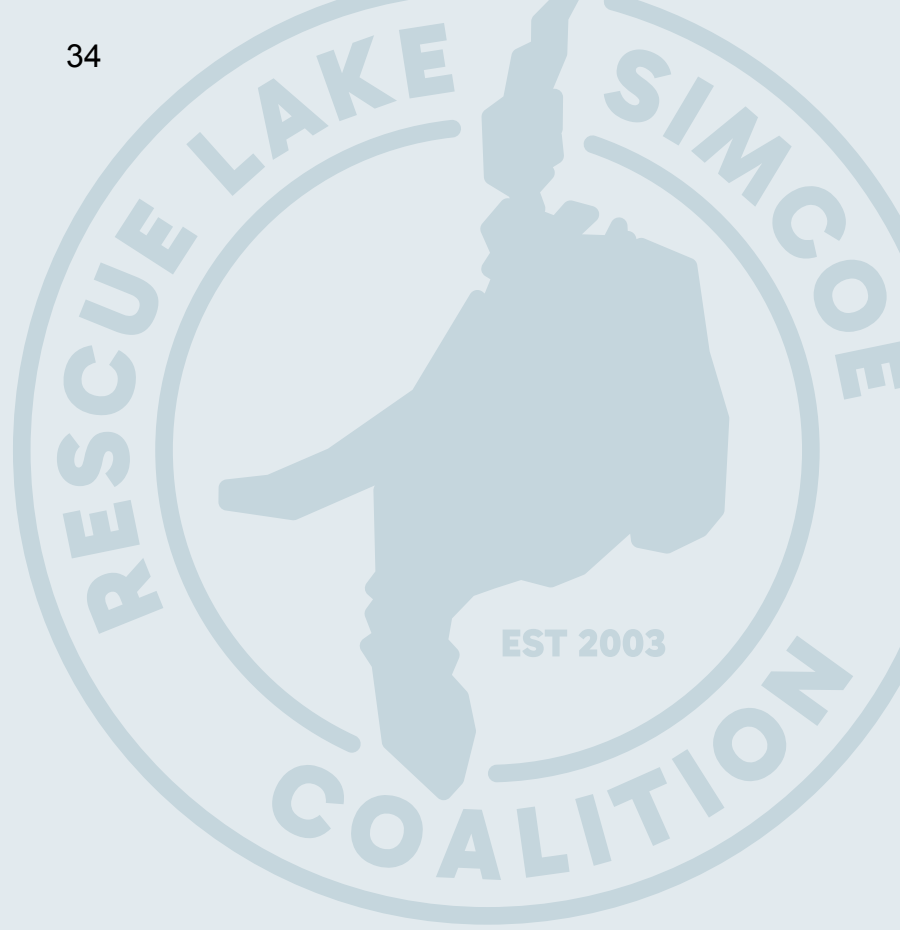
### Georgina

- Phosphorus reduction through stormwater management: Award-winning catch basin filter pilot, integration of Low Impact Development features in road and parking lot retrofits, and rehabilitation of aging stormwater systems.
- Shoreline stabilization projects: Using geotechnical and green-infrastructure solutions to prevent erosion and reduce phosphorus loading.
- Salt mitigation: Implementing an enhanced Salt Management Plan that includes rock-salt alternatives, electronic spreader controllers, and other best practices.
- Invasive species management: Removing phragmites from stormwater infrastructure, ponds and tributaries, and conducting aquatic weed collection.
- Climate Action Plan: Council-approved plan identifying Lake Simcoe's health as a top environmental and climate-risk priority.

### Key Takeaway

These local interventions are vital. Together, municipalities have demonstrated that even under tight constraints, local leadership can advance watershed priorities.

Continued progress, however, depends on sustained provincial and federal investment, science-informed frameworks and public access to data.



# **Recommendations: From Promises to Performance**

To transition from fragmented programmes to meaningful implementation of the LSPP, all levels of government must **move from symbolic commitments to systemic action.**

Accordingly, we recommend the following thirteen actions →

1.

## Anchor Lake Simcoe Within the Federal Freshwater Action Plan

Blue-green algae blooms have appeared the last two summers, driven by warm temperatures, calm water and nutrient enrichment. Several water quality advisories in 2023 and 2024 closed beaches for weeks, affecting recreation and local tourism. These blooms can produce toxins harmful to people, pets and wildlife. While variability remains high, the trend is worsening, underscoring the need to reduce nutrient loading and manage climate-related drivers.

## 2.

## Modernize and Enforce the Provincial Phosphorus-Reduction Strategy

Update the 2011 Phosphorus Reduction Strategy with subwatershed-specific targets, timelines and public dashboards. Integrate low-impact development (LID), stormwater retrofits, natural-cover restoration and agricultural buffer strips as phosphorus-control measures. Mandate phosphorus-reduction reporting for all provincially funded infrastructure projects. Provide stable funding for septic inspections and upgrades, and require large developments to demonstrate net phosphorus neutrality. Public engagement is essential. Expanding homeowner and cottager awareness—through incentives and education on native planting, erosion control and reduced-use practices—would strengthen phosphorus reduction and improve water quality.

## 3.

## Tackle Road-Salt Pollution Through Liability Reform, Regulation and Enforcement

Adopt a limited-liability framework for certified salt contractors, coupled with mandatory training, enforceable application limits and annual reporting. Develop a single set of provincially endorsed Best Management Practices for snow and ice management to curb over-application of salt while maintaining public safety. Establish and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to guide the province and municipalities on implementing salt-use standards, monitoring chloride levels, and protecting freshwater ecosystems and drinking-water sources. Addressing chloride pollution is now as urgent as phosphorus control; chloride levels continue to rise across the watershed, threatening aquatic life, infrastructure and drinking water. At the same time, a limited-liability reform will allow small businesses to reduce their costs by using an adequate amount of salt.

4.

## Invest in Stormwater Management and Asset Maintenance

Increase provincial and federal funding for municipal stormwater infrastructure renewal and maintenance—not only new construction. Aging systems contribute to phosphorus and chloride loading, urban flooding and erosion hazards. Recognize stormwater ponds, conveyances and green-infrastructure systems as core municipal assets under Ontario’s Asset-Management Planning Regulation, and create a dedicated maintenance and inspection funding stream. Improved maintenance also supports flood-plain hazard reduction, protecting existing communities and enabling more compact housing within serviced areas.

5.

## Restore and Expand High-Quality Natural Cover

Establish enforceable watershed-wide natural-heritage targets with subwatershed allocations and timelines. Fund land securement, riparian buffers and wetland restoration through joint federal–provincial programmes. As an example, work with adjacent private landowners near the Black River, Maskinonge River and Lake Simcoe shoreline, and/or to expand the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Require net-gain natural cover in major developments and integrate targets with the LSRCA’s Natural Heritage System and Restoration Strategy.

6.

## Cut Property Taxes to Clean the Lake

Expand Ontario's Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) and create a Lake Simcoe Riparian Tax Exemption to exempt naturalized areas within thirty metres of streams and rivers from municipal taxation. This incentive would reward landowners who maintain or restore vegetated buffers that reduce runoff, mitigate flooding and enhance habitat. Municipal revenues could be backfilled through a modest provincial transfer and/or the Freshwater Action Plan.

7.

## Scale and Export Municipal Best Practices

Create a trilateral Lake Simcoe Best Practices Fund to replicate and scale-up successful municipal pilots—such as Bradford's snow-filtration site, Aurora's LID retrofits and Georgina's stormwater filter and salt-management programmes—across the watershed. Funded municipalities would submit phosphorus and chloride reduction projections, share technical designs and contribute performance data to a public dashboard.

8.

## Build a Public Lake Simcoe Dashboard

Develop a map-based, public-facing platform showing timely water-quality data, septic-inspection results, sewage-treatment performance and beach conditions. Host jointly through MECP and the LSRCA, with federal funding support, ensuring open data, transparency and accountability.

9.

## Enable Compact, Climate-Ready Housing in Serviced Areas

Integrate flood-plain hazard mitigation, culvert upgrades and stormwater retrofits into municipal growth strategies to unlock housing within existing settlement boundaries—allowing communities to grow up, not out. Provincial and federal infrastructure programmes should prioritize densification projects that reduce runoff, protect natural cover and make more efficient use of existing services, helping deliver affordable, transit-oriented housing compatible with the LSPP.



10.

## Ensure MZOs and Special Economic Zones Uphold the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

Require that any Minister's Zoning Order (MZO), provincial land-use order or Special Economic Zone designation within the watershed conform to the LSPP and its objectives. Create a public disclosure and review process for proposed MZOs in the watershed, including environmental impact statements and LSRCA consultation, to maintain transparency and uphold watershed integrity.

11.

## Establish an Annual Lake Simcoe Science and Policy Forum

Bring back a public science forum—co-chaired by the Science and Coordinating Committees—as an annual, day-long conference to share research findings, policy updates and municipal progress. This forum would strengthen knowledge translation, data coordination and accountability, ensuring decisions remain grounded in the best available science and engaging citizens and partners in adaptive management.

12.

## Deliver All-Day, Two-Way Regional Express Rail (RER) on the Barrie GO Line and Strengthen Regional Connectivity

Prioritize fifteen-minute, all-day, two-way service on the Barrie GO Line—serving Barrie, Innisfil, Bradford, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora—and study a Bloomington-to-Keswick extension. Include a Pefferlaw stop on the Ontario Northlander to connect eastern Lake Simcoe communities. Upgrading rail corridors would also replace undersized culverts, thereby reducing flood risk, restoring hydrologic connectivity and enabling higher-density housing within existing settlement boundaries near transit stations.

13.

## Protect and Strengthen Conservation Authority Governance

Amend legislation to restore the LSRCA's planning and review powers over development applications, ensuring consistency with watershed standards and the LSPP. Ensure any consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities into larger regional bodies does not dilute local scientific focus or shift resources away from Lake Simcoe's needs. Reinvest in the LSRCA's scientific, policy and monitoring capacity so it can continue leading integrated watershed management.

# Conclusion: Time to Restore the Spirit—and the Tools—of the Plan

*The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan remains Ontario's strongest watershed-based environmental strategy.*

It is not broken, but it is under pressure. Its success depends not only on clear goals but on full commitment from governments, municipalities, conservation authorities and the public. Isolated capital investments alone are no substitute for a sustained strategy.

This past decade has shown what can work: snow filtration, phosphorus reduction, buffer strips, green infrastructure and stormwater retrofits. The Phosphorus Reduction Facility is a good project, and every effort must be made to bring it online quickly as it is long overdue.

But local efforts are not enough. Without alignment and sustained investment from provincial and federal governments, these

innovations will remain scattered and insufficient.

Protecting Lake Simcoe requires transparent governance, modernized scientific oversight and coordinated funding. We must restore the plan to the strength, clarity and shared purpose it had in 2009.

With political will and intergovernmental cooperation, Lake Simcoe can once again become a provincial and national success story in watershed recovery.

**Let us protect the plan that protects the lake.**

**APPENDIX****Methodology**

This assessment draws upon federal and provincial reports, legislation, academic literature and local monitoring data to compare two periods of implementation: 2008–2013, representing the early benchmark years following adoption of the LSPP, and 2020–2025, reflecting current trends under recent policy changes.

Indicators were assessed using a “Better / Same / Worse” framework to summarize direction of change, supported by quantitative data wherever available. Qualitative policy shifts were considered where measurable data was unavailable. Limitations include data gaps caused by cancelled programmes, lagging ecological indicators such as fish recruitment, and incomplete public reporting at the subwatershed level.

## APPENDIX

# Indicator Assessment Summary

Indicator	2008-2013	2020-2025	Trend
<b>Wetland protection</b>	Strong buffers, LSRCA oversight	Buffers reduced, LSRCA role curtailed	⬇️ Worse
<b>Forest cover protection</b>	40% HQNC target, NHS mapping required	NHS mapping revoked, no binding targets	⬇️ Worse
<b>Phosphorus load</b>	Effluent upgrades, still >80 t/yr	~88 t/yr, above 44 t/yr target	⬇️ Worse
<b>Dissolved oxygen</b>	Improved vs 1990s, still <7 mg/L	4.0–6.9 mg/L, variable	⬆️ Slight Improvement
<b>Fish health</b>	Cisco & burbot improving	Trout/whitefish declining	⊖ Mixed
<b>Chloride (road salt)</b>	Rising, spikes >6,000 mg/L	Avg. ~61 mg/L, peaks >26,000 mg/L	⬇️ Worse
<b>Impervious cover</b>	Watershed 3.4→4.3%	Watershed ~5%	⬇️ Worse <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Invasive species</b>	Zebra mussels dominant, goby emerging	Quagga/stonewort/water soldier present	⬇️ Worse
<b>Capital investment</b>	\$59.9M Clean-Up Fund, 200+ projects	One \$40M facility, ad hoc funding	⊖ Same
<b>Natural cover (forests, wetlands, meadows)</b>	40% target set but actual sat at 28-34%	28–34%	⊖ Same
<b>Harmful algal blooms (cyanobacteria)</b>	Sporadic advisories	Recurring advisories 2023–24	⬇️ Worse
<b>Chloride / Sodium</b>	~40 mg/L Cl	~61 mg/L Cl + rising sodium in DW sources	⬇️ Worse

1. While overall impervious surface area in the Lake Simcoe watershed has increased with population growth, the rate of increase has been slower than population growth itself. On a per-capita basis, imperviousness is actually declining, reflecting the success of municipal intensification policies and compact development in limiting sprawl. This demonstrates that growth management and urban intensification can reduce the per-person impact on water quality and quantity, even as total land coverage rises.

## A. Wetland protection

Time Period	Policy/Action	Observed Impact
2008-2013	100 m buffers; LSRCA oversight intact	Strong, consistent protection
202-2025	Bill 23 reduced buffers to 30 m; complexes delisted	Legislative change has created a risk of fragmentation

## B. Forest cover

Time Period	Policy/Action	Observed Impact
2008-2013	40% HQNC target; NHS mapping required	~34–35% forest cover
202-2025	NHS mapping revoked; no binding woodland target	Fragmentation, discretionary only, slight increase from 33% to 34% per LSRCA

## C. Phosphorus loads

Time Period	Policy/Action	Observed Impact
2008-2013	LSCUF \$59.9M, 200+ projects	Sewage effluent improved; >80 t/yr
202-2025	Major facility funded	~88 t/yr; facility expected 2–10 t/yr reduction

## D. Dissolved oxygen

Time Period	Observed vs Target (7 mg/L)
2008-2013	Improved vs 1980s, but <7 mg/L
202-2025	4.0–6.9 mg/L; highly variable

## E. Fish health

Species	2008-2013	2020-2025	Trend
Lake trout	Minimal wild reproduction	Still reliant on stocking	⬇️ Worse
Whitefish	Weak recruitment	Declining further	⬇️ Worse
Cisco	Strong cohorts (2004/08/12)	Recruitment variable	➡️ Same
Burbot	Increasing CPUE	Continued increase	⬆️ Better
Brook trout	Declining in tributaries	Stable	➡️ Same

## F. Chloride (road salt)

Period	Avg. Lake Conc.	Tributary Spikes	Trend
2000s	~36–40 mg/L	>6,000 mg/L	⬇️ Worse
2020-2025	~61 mg/L (2024)	>26,000 mg/L in Newmarket, 2025)	⬇️ Worse

## G. Impervious Cover

Area	2008-2013	2020-2025	Trend
Watershed average	3.4% → 4.3%	~5%	⬇️ Worse <sup>(1)</sup>

1. With population growth, the 'per capita' rate of worsening has slowed

## H. Invasive Species

Species	2008-2013	2020-2025	Trend
Round goby	Rapid spread	Widespread, dominant	⬇️ Worse
Zebra mussel	Dominant benthos	Declined, replaced by quagga	⬆️ Better
Quagga mussel	Low abundance	Now dominant	⬇️ Worse
Starry stonewort	Spread after 2009	Still widespread albeit declining in a 'boom to bust' cycle	➖ Mixed
Water soldier	Absent	Confirmed 2024	⬇️ Worse

## I. Major Capital Investments

Project	Cost	Impact	Trend
Federal Clean-Up Fund (2007–17)	\$59.9M	200+ projects; 2–4 t/yr reduction	⬆️ Better
Phosphorus Reduction Facility	\$40M	Expected 2–10 t/yr reduction	⬆️ Better
Barrie WWTF upgrade	\$261M	Major nutrient removal gains	⬆️ Better
Innisfil WWTP expansion	\$290M	Growth offset, phosphorus neutral	➖ Same
Pond retrofit backlog	\$117M	Potential 7 t/yr reduction (unfunded)	⬇️ Worse



## APPENDIX

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## APPENDIX

# Acknowledgements

This report was authored by Jonathan Scott, Executive Director of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, with initial research and project contributions from past-Executive Director Claire Malcolmson. Research was led by intern Meetkumar Patel, with thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program. Additional support came from staff members Janis Macaskill and Jessica Merriman, and consultant Darrell Dean.

We are grateful for the guidance and oversight of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition Board of Directors, including:

- Jennie Ucar, Chair
- Susan Sheard, Secretary
- Michael Duffy
- MJ Hanley
- Gail White.

Thank you to Jack Gibbons of Lake Simcoe Watch for his suggestions.

We also want to thank Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority staff — including Rob Baldwin, Trish Barnett, Don Goodyear, Bill Thompson and David Lebecke — for their thoughtful and helpful review of this document.



**The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills**  
**Resolutions**  
**Regular Council - 29 May 2025**

Page 1 of 2  
Item

Date: May 29, 2025

#: 2025- 213

Moved by: Bob Lemaire

Seconded by: Mayor McKeown

That Council receives correspondence item 11.2 from the Town of Mattawa regarding Strong Mayor Powers as information; and

That Council supports the Town of Mattawa resolution 25-95 and also states the following:

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario announced an expansion of strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities that took effect May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills was included in the additional 169 municipalities that gained such powers;

AND WHEREAS these powers allow mayors to unilaterally override council decisions, appoint senior municipal staff, and set budgets without majority council approval, undermining the principles of democratic governance;

AND WHEREAS municipal governance functions best through a collaborative decision-making process where elected councils, representing the collective voice of their communities, work alongside experienced municipal staff and the proposed powers has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence to suggest that strong mayor powers have increased housing starts, contrary to the provincial government's stated justification for their implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has raised concerns that strong mayor powers blur the lines between political leadership and administration expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has a long history of collaborative, transparent and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council debated and shared decision-making;

AND WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the strong mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or appeal.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills opposes the expansion of strong mayor powers and formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Township of Minden Hills from the list of municipalities that was granted strong mayor powers under the designated legislation.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☒ Recorded Vote

**Recorded Vote:**

	For	Against	Absent
Mayor Bob Carter		✓	
Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell	✓		
Councillor Tammy McKelvey	✓		
Councillor Ivan Ingram	✓		
Councillor Shirley Johannessen	✓		
Councillor Pam Sayne	✓		
Councillor Bob Sisson	✓		

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Bob Carter



# Township of Central Frontenac

14216 Road 38, P.O. Box 89, Sharbot Lake, ON K0H 2P0  
Tel: 613 279 2935 or 1 800 300 6851, Fax 613 279 2422  
www.centralfrontenac.com



**December 10, 2025**

The Honourable Todd McCarthy  
College Park, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
777 Bay St.  
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2J3  
**Delivered via email:** minister.mecp@ontario.ca

**RE: The Proposed Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act.**

This is to advise you that at the Council Meeting of December 9, 2025, the following resolution was approved.

**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, the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in 1968, and the Quinte Conservation Authority in 1947, and currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides less than 5%;

**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;


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Corporation of the Township of Central Frontenac 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 Corporation of the Township of Central Frontenac 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 Corporation of the Township of Central Frontenac 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 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.

Kind Regards,

  
Jody Legue

Deputy Clerk

jlegue@centralfrontenac.com

cc. via email

Hon. John Jordan MPP, Hon. Scott Reid MP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, The Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Quinte Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario and all Municipalities in Ontario





December 5, 2025

Send via email

See Distribution List on Page 4

### **Re: Provincial Decision on Automated Speed Enforcement**

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*On November 25, 2025, the County of Brant Council directed staff to prepare a letter in alignment with the City of Brampton's Council Resolution C230-2025 outlining the County's concerns with the provincial decision to ban ASE. The original text was amended to align with the County of Brant's program and experiences and to reflect that the ban has been approved.*

Whereas on May 30, 2017, the Province of Ontario passed the *Safer School Zones Act, 2017* (Bill 65), amending the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) to permit municipalities to adopt Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) technology on roads with speed limits under 80 km/h in school and community safety zones; and

Whereas enabling regulations came into effect on December 1, 2019, granting municipalities the authority to implement ASE and other tools to enhance safety in these areas and since this time municipalities across Ontario have adopted these programs; and

Whereas the Province's ASE legislative framework, together with provincial encouragement in 2019, has led municipalities such as the County of Brant to implement ASE technology to improve safety, reduce speeding, and prevent serious collisions and fatalities; and

Whereas the Provincial government, through the Ministry of Transportation, is responsible for the legislation, regulations and program standards governing municipal ASE programs; and

Whereas some municipalities have implemented ASE inconsistently and in contrast to recommended guidelines, the County of Brant is part of the vast majority of municipalities who have implemented best practices endorsed by the Ministry of Transportation and the Ontario Traffic Council - including speed thresholds - that prioritize public safety, resulting in safer roads; and

Whereas the County of Brant proactively developed a Road Safety Reserve Fund to ensure any revenue collected from the program is reinvested into traffic calming and safety initiatives; and

Whereas consistent with local, regional, national and international research by third parties including [Sick Kids & Toronto Metropolitan University](#), the [Canadian Automobile Association](#), the [Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police](#), the [Traffic Injury Research Foundation](#), and the [Ontario Traffic Council](#); and



Whereas the County of Brant's ASE program has resulted in significant reductions in speed, increased speed compliance in community safety zones, and changes in driver behaviour as outlined in the September 29, 2025, [RPT-0365-25 - Concern with Proposed Ban of Automated Speed Enforcement and associated presentation](#); and

Whereas between February and August 2025, only three percent of vehicles passing the device received a ticket, demonstrating how the program prioritizes enforcing significant offences and illustrates that County of Brant's existing threshold is both reasonable and aligned with best practices; and

Whereas, in the first eight months of implementation, the County observed significant positive impacts associated with ASE, including measurable speed reductions, with the prevalence of speeding dropping from 45% to 35% from February to August; and

Whereas between 20% and 30% of ASE ticket revenue is collected by the Province of Ontario; and

Whereas the County of Brant engaged with the community and introduced the Brant Safe Streets Strategy in 2019, focusing on improving road safety through enforcement, education, engineering, and other innovative solutions; and

Whereas the County of Brant is working to improve road safety and uphold its commitment to the [Brant Safe Streets Strategy](#) through the ASE program and complementary traffic-calming measures such as speedbumps/humps, roundabouts, and improved signage, in order to reduce speeds, prevent collisions, and promote lawful driving behaviour; and

Whereas despite clear evidence and proven results from municipalities, such as the County of Brant, the County was caught off guard by the Premier's sudden announcement to cancel ASE programs across the province, made without adequate notice and consultation; and

Whereas a preliminary estimate of private sector investment by companies delivering ASE solutions indicates the creation of 62 jobs and \$14 million of investment in the province; and

Whereas the Premier believes some municipalities have misused ASE; but that is no reason to shut down municipal ASE programs that have proven successful at changing driver behaviour and improving public safety; and

Whereas the Premier's concerns regarding ASE can be addressed through amendments to provincial legislation, regulations and program standards that enable municipalities to consistently use ASE, without an outright ban on the technology; and

Whereas the County of Brant's ASE program was considered best-practice and that the Premier should consider reversing the ban and meeting with Mayor David Bailey and other municipal leaders to develop improved provincial legislation, regulations and program standards related to the ASE program; and



Whereas it is reckless to abandon what works, and essential to maintain a program that preserves public safety, and, especially, at a very minimum, safety in school locations; and

Whereas, with the implementation of the ban, municipalities should receive funding from the province to reimburse the costs of the program and employ alternate traffic calming measures through the Road Safety Initiatives Fund.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

That the County of Brant Council formally opposes the Province's decision to abruptly cancel ASE, a public safety tool enabled through provincial regulations in December 2019; and,

That this resolution be sent as a letter from Council to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, local MPPs, all Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), and the Ontario Traffic Council, to convey the County's concerns with the ban and encourage the Province to reconsider the direction; and

That the County of Brant encourages that the Premier meet with municipal leaders and industry experts to determine a consistent and effective approach to ASE across municipalities that utilizes best practices to uphold the public safety benefits; and,

That the County of Brant encourages the province to use the Road Safety Initiatives Fund to reimburse municipalities for all costs incurred to implement the ASE program and implement additional traffic calming measures; and,

That staff be directed to continue monitoring speeding and traffic data in zones where ASE was previously employed to evaluate the impacts of the ASE program; and,

That staff be directed to prepare a report to Council in the future outlining the impacts of the ASE program and how the ban of these devices has influenced the prevalence of speeding in the zones; and

That staff be directed to continue monitoring developments and announcements surrounding ASE and advance advocacy efforts consistent with this letter.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Bailey on behalf of County of Brant Council



### **Distribution List**

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria  
Minister of Transportation  
[minister.mto@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mto@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Will Bouma, MPP (Brantford-Brant)  
[will.bouma@pc.ola.org](mailto:will.bouma@pc.ola.org)

The Honourable Brian Riddell, MPP (Cambridge)  
[brian.riddell@pc.ola.org](mailto:brian.riddell@pc.ola.org)

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, MPP (Oxford)  
[ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org](mailto:ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org)

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)  
[contact@oacp.ca](mailto:contact@oacp.ca)

Ontario Traffic Council  
[traffic@otc.org](mailto:traffic@otc.org)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
[amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)

All Ontario Municipalities



RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 333

DECEMBER 10, 2025

Moved by: Brad KnellerSeconded by: Bishop

**WHEREAS** staff submitted an application for Invest Ready–Certified Site Designation, which was denied due to the absence of water, wastewater, and natural gas infrastructure;

**AND WHEREAS** staff subsequently met with representatives of the associated grant funding program, who advised that additional funding opportunities for rural communities would be forthcoming;

**AND WHEREAS** the Site Readiness Program for Industrial Properties has since been launched, with eligibility requirements stipulating that any missing infrastructure must be in place and serviceable within two years of acceptance into the grant funding program;

**AND WHEREAS** it is not financially feasible nor in the best interest of our ratepayers to install full municipal water, wastewater, and natural gas services, as the associated capital and operating costs would impose an undue financial burden on the Municipality's ratepayers;

**AND WHEREAS** alternative servicing solutions commonly used in rural and northern Ontario—such as properly designed and maintained septic systems for wastewater, drilled wells for drinking water, and propane or hydro for heat—are proven, reliable, and effective forms of infrastructure that can safely and efficiently support industrial and commercial development;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan urges the Province of Ontario to revise its grant funding criteria to recognize and accept these alternative servicing methods as eligible infrastructure, and to ensure that rural and northern municipalities lacking municipal gas, water, and wastewater systems are not excluded from support;

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; the Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; FONOM; AMO; NOMA; and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried ☒ Defeated ☐ Deferred ☐
  
 Sam Dunnett, Mayor

Recorded Vote Called by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recorded Vote

Member of Council	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bishop, Bill			
Hetherington, John			
Hind, Jon			
Kneller, Brad			
Mayor: Dunnett, Sam			


**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON**

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[www.southhuron.ca](http://www.southhuron.ca)

December 11, 2025

Via email: [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Premier's Office  
 Room 281  
 Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
 Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Hon. Doug Ford,

**Re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities**

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their December 1, 2025, Regular Council Meeting:

496-2025

Moved By: Ted Oke

Seconded by: Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

**That South Huron Council supports the November 17, 2025 resolution of Town of Kingsville regarding Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities; and**

**That the supporting resolution and originating documentation be circulated to the Premier, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Thompson, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.**

Result: Carried

I have attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator  
 Municipality of South Huron  
[kwebster@southhuron.ca](mailto:kwebster@southhuron.ca)  
 519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, [todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org](mailto:todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rob Flack, [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org); MPP, Hon. Lisa Thompson, [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org); AMCTO, [amcto@amcto.com](mailto:amcto@amcto.com); AMO, [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca); and all Ontario Municipalities

November 19, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Public Input Coordinator  
Via Email: [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford,

**Re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities**

Please be advised that at its Regular Meeting held Monday, November 17, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kingsville passed the following resolution respecting the matter referenced in the above subject line:

**195-11172025**

**Moved By:** Councillor Neufeld

**Seconded By:** Councillor Patterson

**Whereas** the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990 (the "Act"), originally enacted in 1946, was established to allow municipalities to form conservation authorities that are equipped to develop and deliver local, watershed-based conservation, restoration and natural resource management programs on behalf of the province and municipalities;

**And whereas** there are thirty-six (36) conservation authorities in Ontario, each of which is distinct and reflects the unique environmental, geographic and community needs of its watershed;

**And whereas** on October 31, 2025, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation which would amend the Act to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven (7) regional conservation authorities.

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kingsville:**

- Wishes to formally state that it opposes the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities without knowing the full financial and operational impact to municipalities and the conservation authorities; and,



- Directs the Acting Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West, Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

**Carried.**

Please accept this correspondence as an official confirmation of Council's decision with respect to the same. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Angela Toole  
Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk  
519-733-2305 ext. 223  
[atoole@kingsville.ca](mailto:atoole@kingsville.ca)

cc. Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex  
Lisa Gretzky, MPP, Windsor West  
Andrew Dowie, MPP, Windsor-Tecumseh  
Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington  
Essex Region Conservation Authority  
Conservation Ontario  
AMCTO  
AMO  
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: **Notice of Adoption: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Affordable Housing  
Community Improvement Plan**

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This Notice is to advise that in accordance with Section 17(23) and 28 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, 1990, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville at its meeting on December 3, 2025 has made the decision:

### **PASSING OF BY-LAW 2025-099-DS and BY-LAW 2025-100-DS**

BEING [BY-LAW 2025-099-DS](#) to designate a Community Improvement Project Area for the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan and mapped in Appendix A to the By-law.

BEING [BY-LAW 2025-100-DS](#) to adopt Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan for the urban areas of the Community of Stouffville.

### **EXPLANATION OF THE PURPOSE & EFFECT**

The purpose of the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan is to establish a framework, community improvement project area, and incentives for improving housing affordability within the Town. This is done in accordance with Section 28 of the *Planning Act*, which allows the Town to designate specific areas for improvement and provide financial incentives to landowners within that area to assist with improvement and certain types of development, redevelopment, construction, or reconstruction.

All written and oral submissions received by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville were considered in the making of this decision. The Town received a number of oral and written submissions through the Statutory Public Meeting process, project updates to Council, and public consultation events which allowed for feedback throughout the process, which are detailed in the Consultation Summary available at: [Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan | Come Together, Whitchurch-Stouffville](#).

### **FILING OF THE APPEAL**

Community Improvement Plans are exempt from approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing through O.Reg 525/97. The decision of the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is considered final if a Notice of Appeal is not received on or before the last day of the appeal period (December 30, 2025).

Only the Minister, or an owner of land affected by the Community Improvement Plan, or a specified person or public body who made written or oral submissions to the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, may make an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal on the decision of the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the plan was adopted, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, or, if there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party in the opinion of the Ontario Land Tribunal.

A copy of the appeal form is available through the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) website at <https://olt.gov.on.ca/>, or appeals may be filed using the OLT e-file service, at <https://olt.gov.on.ca/e-file-service/>. To submit electronically, first-time users of the e-filing service will need to register for a My Ontario Account, and all users will need to select the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville as the Approval Authority.

To submit an appeal to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in person or by registered mail/courier, address the appeal to the following:

Clerk's Office, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, 111 Sandiford Dr, Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON L4A 0Z9

Also include the following within the appeal:

1. Reasons for appeal; and description of the specific part of the Community Improvement Plan to which the appeal applies;
2. The fee, as prescribed under the Ontario Land Tribunal Act, in the amount of \$1,100 per application to appeal, payable to the Minister of Finance, Province of Ontario; and
3. Include the processing fee prescribed under the User Fees and Charges By-law in the amount of \$ \$1,054.00 per application, payable by certified cheque to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. This fee must be paid directly to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in person, or by mail/courier, in addition to the OLT fee (Minister of Finance).

A copy of the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan, as adopted by Council is available at: [Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan | Come Together, Whitchurch-Stouffville](#) or by contacting [housingcip@townofws.ca](mailto:housingcip@townofws.ca).

**DATED** at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville this 11th day of December, 2025.

Andrea Torok, Planner I, Planning Policy, Development Services



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**



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

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles  
RESOLUTION PAGE**



**Regular Meeting of Council**

**Agenda Number:** 5.4.1.  
**Resolution Number** 2025-284  
**Title:** Support Items 5.3 #1, 3, 4, 5 and 12 from November 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council - Extend Deadline for the Fire Certification  
**Date:** December 3, 2025

**Moved by:** Councillor Lachance  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Pothier

**WHEREAS** Ontario Regulation 343/22 mandates that firefighters performing specific fire protections services be certified to a prescribed standard by July 1, 2026, with certain technical rescue disciplines requiring certification by July 1, 2028;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipality recognizes and supports the value of the certification requirements mandated by the Province of Ontario, acknowledging that standardized training enhances firefighter safety, service quality, and public trust;

**AND WHEREAS** the Office of the Fire Marshall (OFM) and the Ontario Fire College (OFC) are actively working to provide training and certification programs, including offering over 600 courses annually, yet some certification programs and testing resources remain under development or are not yet widely accessible, particularly in the Ontario Seal Programs;

**AND WHEREAS** many fire departments in Ontario are staffed predominantly by volunteer firefighters who balance full-time employment with their emergency service commitments;

**AND WHEREAS** the certification programs are still in development and the current availability does not adequately reflect the operational realities of volunteer fire departments, especially in rural communities, where training opportunities are limited and certification demands place undue pressure on personnel and municipal resources;

**AND WHEREAS** when firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, smaller / rural municipalities raised concerns that they do not provide the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province responded thoughtfully by introducing new legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is appreciated and reflects a fair and practical approach, however, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available;

**AND WHEREAS** it is unreasonable to expect volunteer firefighters - who already balance full-time employment and community service - to independently develop curriculums and training programs in-house to meet provincial standards and adequately prepare them for certification exams;

**AND WHEREAS** smaller rural volunteer fire departments often lack the necessary resources, certified personnel, and specialized expertise to independently develop training curriculums or qualify for learning contracts with the Ontario Fire College;

**AND WHEREAS** these departments have long relied on the Ontario Fire College's course offerings and have been patiently awaiting the release of the Ontario Seal Programs, having noted preliminary pilot

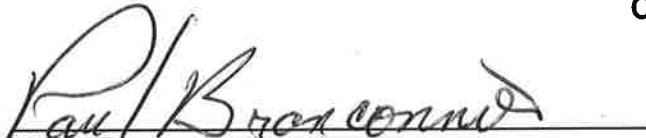
initiatives in Northern Ontario and anticipating a broader rollout of these programs in the near future;  
AND WHEREAS rural municipalities would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Office of the Fire Marshall to address current barriers and explore collaborative solutions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Office of the Fire Marshall, extend the compliance deadlines outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22 to a minimum of two (2) years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal Programs offered in the regulation for all affected certification categories;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province consider implementing a phased or regionally adaptive approach to certification deadlines, taking into account the availability of training programs and the unique challenges faced by volunteer fire services in Rural Ontario;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Ontario Fire Marshall, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC), our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), and all Ontario municipalities for support and endorsement.

CARRIED

  
MAYOR





City of Hamilton  
 Hamilton City Hall  
 71 Main Street West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
 Hamilton, Ontario  
 Canada L8P 4Y5  
[www.hamilton.ca](http://www.hamilton.ca)

Matthew Trennum  
 City Clerk  
 Office of the City Clerk  
[Matthew.Trennum@hamilton.ca](mailto:Matthew.Trennum@hamilton.ca)

December 15, 2025

## **Re: Drowning Prevention and Swim Safety in Ontario**

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, passed the following resolution:

Item 9.2 of the General Issues Committee Minutes 25-017:

### **9.2 Drowning Prevention and Swim Safety in Ontario**

WHEREAS, drowning is one the of the leading causes of preventable deaths among children in Ontario;

WHEREAS, research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario shows that most children who drown never intended to be in the water;

WHEREAS, evidence demonstrates that even basic swimming and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning;

WHEREAS, many children in Ontario do not have equitable access to swimming lessons out side of school due to financial, cultural, or geographic barriers;

WHEREAS, several municipalities across Ontario have expressed strong interest in improving water safety education for children; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Education has the authority to incorporate water safety and survival training into the regular elementary school curriculum as universal, life-saving skill comparable to fire safety and road safety instruction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Hamilton City Council respectfully urge the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students;
- (b) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Minister of Education of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and The Federation of Canadian Municipalities with a request for support and/or endorsement; and,



- (c) That staff be directed to assess all Hamilton waterfronts to ensure adequate public water safety measures are in place, any opportunities to expand Swim to Survive Programs at city pools, and report back with recommendations to the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

Regards,



Matthew Trennum  
City Clerk

- cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)  
 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) [info@fcm.ca](mailto:info@fcm.ca)  
 Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Education of Ontario [paul.calandra@pc.ola.org](mailto:paul.calandra@pc.ola.org)  
 Hamilton Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs)  
 Hon. D. Skelly, MPP (Flamborough-Glanbrook) [Donna.Skelly@pc.ola.org](mailto:Donna.Skelly@pc.ola.org)  
 M. Ciriello, MPP (Hamilton Mountain) [monica.ciriello@pc.ola.org](mailto:monica.ciriello@pc.ola.org)  
 Hon. N. Lumsden, MPP (Hamilton East-Stoney Creek) [Neil.Lumsden@pc.ola.org](mailto:Neil.Lumsden@pc.ola.org)  
 S. Shaw, MPP (Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas) [SShaw-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:SShaw-QP@ndp.on.ca)  
 R. Lennox, MPP (Hamilton Centre) [rlennox-qp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:rlennox-qp@ndp.on.ca)  
 All Ontario Municipalities  
[clerk@addingtonhighlands.ca](mailto:clerk@addingtonhighlands.ca); [info@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca](mailto:info@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca); [rreid@adjtos.ca](mailto:rreid@adjtos.ca);  
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# SMITHS FALLS

## RISE AT THE FALLS

December 5, 2025

*Honourable Doug Ford,  
Premier of Ontario*

**Re: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their December 1, 2025 Council meeting:

*WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality and quality of life in Ontario’s rural and small urban communities;*

*WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities;*

*WHEREAS in 2022 the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026;*

*WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities’ ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt;*

*WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing;*



# SMITHS FALLS

## RISE AT THE FALLS

*WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

- 1. The Town of Smiths Falls calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.*
- 2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.*
- 3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.*
- 4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.*
- 5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding.*
- 6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.*



# SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

*7. The Clerk of the Town of Smiths Falls forward this resolution to:*

- o The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario*
- o The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure*
- o The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
- o The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance*
- o Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)*
- o Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)*
- o Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)*
- o All municipalities in Ontario*

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

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello  
Town Clerk



**From:** [Regional.Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Regional Council Decision - 2024 Paramedic Response Time Performance Plan Results  
**Date:** December 15, 2025 8:38:58 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On December 11, 2025 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Council amend Bylaw 2020-53 to expand the conditions under which York Region Paramedic Services' vehicles may use York Region's Bus Rapid Transit Network's dedicated bus lanes.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities for information.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following link:

[H.2.1 2024 Paramedic Response Time Performance Plan Results](#)

Please contact Julia Roitenberg, General Manager, Paramedic and Senior Services at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74024 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

**Christopher Raynor** (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

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The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1  
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | [christopher.raynor@york.ca](mailto:christopher.raynor@york.ca) | [york.ca](http://york.ca)

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**



**From:** [Regional.Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Regional Council Decision - 2025 Servicing Capacity Assignment  
**Date:** December 15, 2025 8:37:46 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On December 11, 2025 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Council authorize assignment of additional water and wastewater capacity of 88,348 persons to local municipalities.
2. Council authorize merging the remaining reserve capacity from the Not-for-Profit and Rental Housing programs.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to local municipalities, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Infrastructure Ontario.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following link:

[G.2.2 2025 Servicing Capacity Assignment](#)

Please contact Wendy Kemp, Director Infrastructure Asset Management at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75141 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

**Christopher Raynor** (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

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The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | [christopher.raynor@york.ca](mailto:christopher.raynor@york.ca) | [york.ca](http://york.ca)

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**



# The Corporation of the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley

310 Port Elmsley Road • Perth • Ontario • K7H 3C7

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
 Scott Reid, MP  
 John Jordan, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston  
 Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
 Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
 Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority  
 All Municipalities in Ontario

## **Re: Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities & New Provincial Conservation Agency**

At its Council meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley adopted the following motion:

### **Resolution Number 25-122**

**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 the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in 1968, and currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides less than 5%;

**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;



## The Corporation of the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley

310 Port Elmsley Road • Perth • Ontario • K7H 3C7

**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;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley 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 Township of Drummond/North Elmsley 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 Township of Drummond/North Elmsley 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.

**CARRIED**

Sincerely,

Janie Laidlaw,  
Clerk

December 16, 2025

VIA EMAIL

**RE: Bill 68 and Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities**

At its meeting held December 10, 2025 Oxford County Council passed the following resolution:

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that Correspondence Item 7.4 be received 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 local municipalities of Oxford County established the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) with other consenting municipalities within the watershed. (initially formed in 1947) along with Grand River Conservation Authority (1948), Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (1950) and Long Point Conservation Authority (1948); 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 the County of Oxford 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 County of Oxford 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 County of Oxford 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 Oxford County advocate that it is not in favour of the proposed changes;

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 Ontario municipalities,
- Conservation Authorities, and
- Conservation Ontario

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Should you require anything further or have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you,



Lindsey A. Mansbridge  
County Clerk





# SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

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*



# SMITHS FALLS

## RISE AT THE FALLS

*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



# SMITHS FALLS

## RISE AT THE FALLS

December 16, 2025

*Honourable Doug Ford,  
Premier of Ontario*

**Re: Urging Province to Re-instate the Eligibility for Curbside Blue Box Collection**

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 Province of Ontario designated producers to be responsible to collect recycling in the Province; and*

*WHEREAS nonprofit organizations, including our local food banks, have been deemed ineligible for producer blue box collection effective January 1 2026; and*

*WHEREAS food insecurity is a local, provincial and federal issue; and*

*WHEREAS food banks need to receive grocery items that are delivered in cardboard boxes and cartons which generate copious amounts of recyclable material; and*

*WHEREAS food banks are volunteer and donation based with no revenue collected to pay for services such as removal of recyclable materials;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Town of Smiths Falls strongly urges the Province to re-instate the eligibility for curbside blue box collection January 1 2026, for nonprofit organizations, such as food banks; and*



**SMITHS FALLS****RISE AT THE FALLS**

*THAT this motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, to the local MP and MPP, Eastern Ontario Mayor's Caucus, AMO, and all Ontario municipalities for support.*

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

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello  
Town Clerk



December 16, 2025

The Honorable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Sent by Email

Dear: Honorable Doug Ford,

**RE: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities.**

The Council of the Corporation of Tay Valley Township at its meeting held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION #C-2025-12-14**

**MOVED BY:** Wayne Baker

**SECONDED BY:** Angela Pierman

**"WHEREAS**, water resources and water availability is the defining issue of this century due to the impacts of climate change which Tay Valley Township has already experienced (through dry wells and below normal river levels this summer and floods in 2017 and 2019),

**AND WHEREAS**, Ontario's Conservation Authorities play a critical role in watershed management, flood mitigation, drought mitigation, and public safety;

**AND WHEREAS**, Tay Valley Township has already experienced negative consequences of centralized management of water resources from afar (the Ministry of Natural Resources staff in Toronto have previously directed the depth of water at the Pike Lake Dam be lowered during a pickerel spawn event resulting in the death of the pickerel);

**AND WHEREAS**, municipalities must retain a strong, meaningful voice to ensure that local knowledge, local priorities and local risks are fully considered;

**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;

**AND WHEREAS,** local municipalities established the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in 1966 and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in 1968 and currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides less than 5%;

**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 propose 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;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** Tay Valley Township strongly urges the Provincial Government of Ontario to withdraw all sections of Bill 68 related to Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** Tay Valley Township 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;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the Province be requested to re-introduce any proposed changes as a standalone bill to proceed through the regular legislative process (First and Second Readings, Committee Review, stakeholder submissions and public consultation) to ensure the impacts on watershed management, environmental protection and public safety are fully and transparently captured;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, while Tay Valley Township 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;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, Tay Valley Township 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;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, Tay Valley Township calls on the province to consider any potential amalgamation of Conservation Authorities on the basis of their abiotic, biologic and cultural characteristics (i.e. remove the Cataraqui Region and all lands not draining to the Ottawa River);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the province maintains the local knowledge of the unique natural resources, weather and climactic features of the RVCA and MVCA watersheds through local staffing;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the current assets (including financial reserves and land trusts) of the RVCA and MVCA remain with them to recognize their fiscal prudence and are not used to subsidize conservation authorities with fewer assets or developed upon;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the province ensure that any future governance framework for Ontario's Conservation Authorities includes robust and clearly defined municipal representation, recognizing municipalities as essential partners in protecting watershed and mitigating risks;

**AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT**, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ontario Minister of Finance, to the local MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the local conservation authority(s), and all municipalities in Ontario."

**ADOPTED**



If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (613) 267-5353 ext. 130 or [deputyclerk@tayvalleytwp.ca](mailto:deputyclerk@tayvalleytwp.ca)

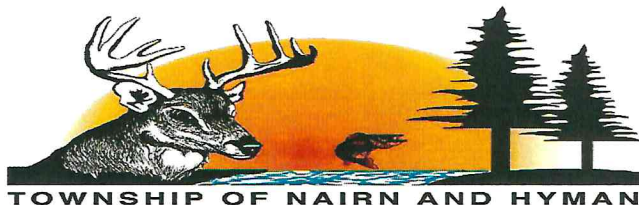
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Watt".

Aaron Watt, Deputy Clerk

cc: Hon. Todd J. McCarthy Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks,  
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy Ontario Minister of Finance,  
John Jordan, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston,  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), RVCA, MVCA and all Ontario Municipalities  
Sally McIntyre, General Manager, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority  
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

/Enclosure



64 McIntyre Street • Nairn Centre, Ontario • P0M 2L0 ☎ 705-869-4232 📠 705-869-5248  
 Established: March 7, 1896 Office of the Clerk Treasurer, CAO E-mail: [belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca](mailto:belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca)

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December 17, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney  
 Office of the Prime Minister  
 80 Wellington Street  
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Support Resolution

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman, I am writing to formally convey Council's support for recent federal measures aimed at stabilizing and strengthening Canada's steel and softwood lumber sectors.

As a small Northern Ontario municipality whose economy is closely tied to the continued operation of Interfor, a local softwood lumber mill, Council is increasingly concerned that ongoing trade pressures and market uncertainty are placing added strain on the long-term viability of this key employer. Any reduction in operations or a potential closure would have significant and lasting consequences for local employment, municipal revenues, and the overall economic and social wellbeing of our community.

In this context, and in response to the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities' November 26, 2025 media release, Council adopted the enclosed resolution at their meeting of December 8, 2025:

### **SUPPORT FOR STEEL AND LUMBER SECTORS**

#### **RESOLUTION # 2025-14-247**

MOVED BY: Karen Richter

SECONDED BY: Wayne Austin

**WHEREAS** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) has issued a media release dated November 26, 2025, welcoming the Government of Canada's new measures to support the steel and softwood lumber sectors in response to ongoing U.S. tariff pressures; and

**WHEREAS** the federal actions—including strengthened protections for domestic producers, expanded financial supports, and increased incentives to utilize Canadian steel and lumber in federal infrastructure and housing projects—represent important steps in stabilizing industries that are vital to Northern Ontario's economy; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities across the North continue to experience the economic impacts of industry closures, including the recent shutdown of Domtar a pulp and paper mill in the neighboring Town of Espanola, which has demonstrated the vulnerability of resource-dependent communities and the need for coordinated intergovernmental support; and



**WHEREAS** the Township of Nairn and Hyman recognizes the significant role of Interfor, our local soft-wood lumber mill, as a major employer and economic anchor in our region, and further recognizes that any threat to its continued operation would have devastating consequences for workers, families, and local businesses; and

**WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario has a shared responsibility to ensure the long-term sustainability of the forestry, lumber, and steel sectors, which are foundational to the economic wellbeing of Northern and rural communities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman commends the Government of Canada for its leadership and for implementing substantial measures to support Canada's steel and softwood lumber industries during this period of trade volatility; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Council respectfully urges the Government of Ontario to introduce additional financial, regulatory, and policy-based supports to ensure that Ontario's steel, forestry, and lumber sectors remain competitive, resilient, and able to withstand ongoing international trade pressures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Council specifically calls upon the Province of Ontario to work directly with industry stakeholders, including municipalities and major employers such as Interfor, to create programs and investments that will help protect jobs, maintain production capacity, and support long-term industry growth in Northern Ontario; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Northern Development, FONOM, MP Jim Belanger, MPP Bill Rosenberg and all Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED**

Sincerely Yours,



Belinda Ketchabaw  
CAO Clerk - Treasurer

BK/mb

cc: Premier of Ontario  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Minister of Northern Development  
FONOM  
MP Hon. Jim Belanger  
MPP Hon. Bill Rosenberg  
All Ontario Municipalities



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2025

### **FONOM Welcomes Federal Support for Steel and Lumber Sectors Impacted by U.S. Tariffs**

**Northeastern Ontario** – The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) welcomes today's announcement by Prime Minister Mark Carney outlining new federal measures to support Canada's steel and softwood lumber industries, which continue to face unprecedented challenges due to aggressive U.S. tariff actions.

The federal plan includes strengthened protections for domestic producers, expanded financial supports for companies facing liquidity pressures, and new incentives to increase the use of Canadian steel and lumber in national infrastructure and housing projects. These measures aim to stabilize sectors vital to the economies of many Northern Ontario communities.

Prime Minister Carney announced that Canada will significantly tighten tariff-rate quotas on foreign steel imports, opening an estimated **\$850 million in domestic demand** for Canadian producers. In addition, the federal government is allocating **\$500 million in new financing** for softwood lumber firms, paired with a further **\$500 million expansion** of the Business Development Bank of Canada's softwood guarantee program.

FONOM is encouraged by the federal government's recognition of the pressures facing Northern resource-based communities, where steel and lumber operations support thousands of jobs and anchor local economies.

**"These measures acknowledge what Northern Ontario has long understood — that our steel and lumber sectors are national economic pillars,"** said FONOM President Dave Plourde **"U.S. tariffs continue to destabilize communities across the North, and today's announcement provides needed tools to help our workers and industries adapt, compete, and grow."**

FONOM also welcomes the federal commitment to **reduce interprovincial freight rates by 50 per cent** for steel and lumber shipments beginning next spring. Lower transportation costs will help Northern producers access new domestic markets and move product efficiently while north-south trade remains constrained.

As part of the plan, the federal government will also advance the **Buy Canadian Policy**, ensuring that major defence, construction, and infrastructure projects prioritize Canadian steel, aluminum,



and wood products. This aligns strongly with FONOM's longstanding advocacy for procurement policies that support Canadian jobs and supply chains.

"Keeping Canadian dollars working in Canada is essential," added the President. "These steps will create new demand for made-in-Canada materials while helping stabilize communities affected by unpredictable U.S. trade actions."

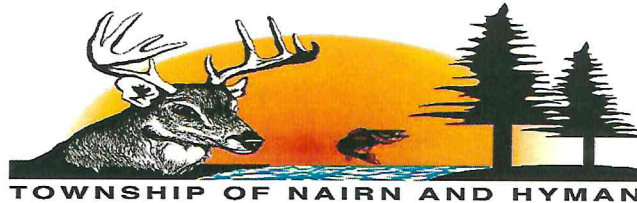
FONOM looks forward to continued collaboration with federal officials to ensure the timely rollout of these programs, and to ensure that Northern Ontario municipalities and industries can fully benefit from the measures announced today.

**Media Contact:**

Dave Plourde, President

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)

705-335-1615 | [fonom.info@gmail.com](mailto:fonom.info@gmail.com)



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 Established: March 7, 1896 Office of the Clerk Treasurer, CAO E-mail: [belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca](mailto:belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca)

December 17, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney  
 Office of the Prime Minister  
 80 Wellington Street  
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Support Resolution

Please be advised our Council adopted the following resolution at their meeting of December 8, 2025:

**SUPPORT REQUEST FOR NATION-BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHWAY  
 11/17 (2+1 & FOUR LANE OPTIONS)**

**RESOLUTION # 2025-14-241**

MOVED BY: Karen Richter

SECONDED BY: Wayne Austin

**WHEREAS** Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors; and

**WHEREAS** four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor; and

**WHEREAS** the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway; and

**WHEREAS** modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

**WHEREAS** a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay --+ Cochrane, then Cochrane--+ Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew--+ Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie --+ Sudbury; Thunder Bay--+ Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

**WHEREAS** analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, (FONOM} demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project; and

**THAT** the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction; and

**THAT** the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit}:

**THAT** the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and

**THAT** both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and

**THAT** the program incorporates corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations}, resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation}, and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials; and

**THAT** this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada}, the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada}, the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM}, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA}, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO}, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM}, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA}, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC} for support.

**CARRIED**

Sincerely Yours,



Belinda Ketchabaw  
CAO Clerk - Treasurer

BK/mb

cc: Federal Minister of Infrastructure  
Federal Minister of Transport  
Premier of Ontario  
Ontario Minister of Transportation  
FONOM  
NOMA  
AMO  
FCM  
ROMA  
EOWC  
Local Member of Parliament  
Local Member of Provincial Parliament





Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay  
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8  
www.noma.on.ca  
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

## For Immediate Release

# Northern Ontario Hill Days: NOMA and FONOM Bring a Unified Northern Voice to Ottawa

**Thunder Bay, ON / North Bay, ON — December 3, 2025** — The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) have concluded two highly productive days of meetings on Parliament Hill as part of **Northern Ontario Hill Days**, a coordinated advocacy mission that brought municipal leaders directly to federal decision-makers to advance the priorities of Northern communities.

Over the two-day mission, representatives from NOMA and FONOM met with **MPs from all parties, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leaders, and senior federal officials**, underscoring a shared message: **supporting the North is essential to strengthening Canada's economy, infrastructure, and communities.**

## High-Impact Meetings Across Parliament Hill

Throughout the mission, the delegation engaged in focused discussions with:

- **Staff from the Leader of the Official Opposition**
- **MP Marcus Powlowski (Thunder Bay–Rainy River)**
- **MP Pauline Rochfort (Nipissing–Timiskaming)**
- **Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne**
- **Minister Patty Hajdu**
- **Minister Mélanie Joly**
- **Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Housing Jennifer McKelvie**
- **Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration Peter Fragiskatos**
- **Housing Critic Scott Aitchison (CPC)**
- **MP Eric Melillo (Kenora / Kiiwetinoong - CPC)**
- **Senior staff in the Prime Minister's Office**

These discussions centred on the urgent needs of Northern communities and the unique role the region plays in national economic growth, resource development, supply chain reliability, and community safety.

## Advancing Key Priorities for Northern Communities

NOMA and FONOM presented a coordinated set of priorities, including:

### ■ **Strengthening the Trans-Canada Highway System**

Northern Ontario is home to the most vulnerable stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway. The delegation called for federal investment in 2+1 highway models, redundancy around critical pinch points, and long-term resilience planning to ensure the continuity of Canada's national supply chain.



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay  
 P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8  
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#### ▪ **Addressing Labour Shortages Through Tailored Immigration Pathways**

Municipal leaders emphasized that severe labour shortages are slowing growth across essential services, small businesses, and major industrial projects. The delegation pressed for rural- and Northern-specific immigration solutions to attract and retain workers and to support regional post-secondary institutions facing enrolment pressures.

#### ▪ **Community Safety and Meaningful Bail Reform**

Delegates urged the federal government to take decisive action on chronic reoffending, improve accountability within the bail system, and support measures that restore safety and confidence in Northern communities.

#### ▪ **Unlocking Economic Growth and Critical Minerals Development**

NOMA and FONOM highlighted the global significance of Northern Ontario's critical mineral potential and called for accelerated permitting, strategic infrastructure investments, and continued support for Indigenous-led partnerships.

#### **Quotes:**

"Northern Ontario's highways are Canada's highways. The Trans-Canada corridor through our region is the most vulnerable stretch in the entire country, and without real federal investment in redundancy, expansion, and safety upgrades, the national supply chain remains at constant risk. At the same time, our communities are facing historic labour shortages across every sector. We made it clear in Ottawa that Northern Ontario is ready to grow, but we need the workers—and the safe, reliable transportation infrastructure—to support that growth."

— **Rick Dumas, President, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)**

"Municipalities across Northern Ontario are confronting a community safety crisis driven by chronic and repeat offenders, and we pressed the federal government for meaningful bail reform that protects victims, reinforces accountability, and ensures our communities can feel safe again. At the same time, labour shortages are holding back everything from small businesses to major resource projects. Northern Ontario needs a federal partner committed to real solutions on both fronts if we are going to thrive."

— **Dave Plourde, President, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)**

#### **A Strong and Collaborative Presence**

Northern Ontario Hill Days showcased unprecedented collaboration between the two regional associations, presenting a united and solutions-focused voice to federal leaders. Together, NOMA and FONOM affirmed that **a strong, growing Northern Ontario is foundational to building a strong and competitive Canada.**



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## Looking Ahead

NOMA and FONOM expressed their commitment to continuing this momentum through **annual federal engagement**, ensuring that the issues facing Northern communities remain front and centre in national discussions.

Both organizations also extended an invitation to federal leaders, stating that they **look forward to welcoming MPs, Ministers, and the Prime Minister** to their upcoming conferences to continue dialogue, strengthen relationships, and advance shared priorities for Northern Ontario.

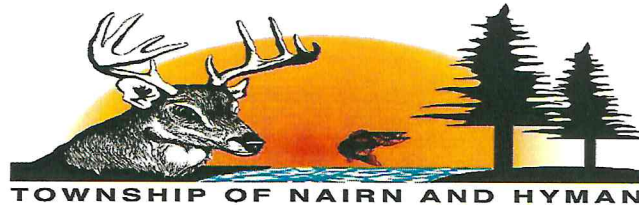
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## Media Contacts:

Dave Plourde, President, FONOM  
 705-335-1615 | [fonom.info@gmail.com](mailto:fonom.info@gmail.com)

Rick Dumas, President, NOMA  
 807-683-6662 | [admin@noma.on.ca](mailto:admin@noma.on.ca)





64 McIntyre Street • Nairn Centre, Ontario • P0M 2L0 ☎ 705-869-4232 📠 705-869-5248  
 Established: March 7, 1896 Office of the Clerk Treasurer, CAO E-mail: [belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca](mailto:belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca)

December 17, 2025

Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
 800 – 155 University Ave  
 Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

Re: Elect Respect Pledge

Please be advised our Council adopted the following resolution at their meeting of December 8, 2025:

### **SUPPORT RESOLUTION - RE: ELECT RESPECT PLEDGE**

#### **RESOLUTION # 2025-14-243**

MOVED BY: Karen Richter

SECONDED BY: Wayne Austin

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the correspondence from the Township of Chapple regarding the Elect Respect pledge; be received and supported as outlined below:

**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 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 Township of Nairn and Hyman supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

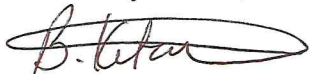
- Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online
- Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,
- Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,
- Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,
- Call 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 Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman 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 Jim Belanger and MPP Hon. Bill Rosenberg, and all Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED**

Sincerely Yours,



Belinda Ketchabaw  
CAO Clerk - Treasurer

BK/mb

cc: Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
MP Hon. Jim Belanger  
MPP Hon. Bill Rosenberg  
All Ontario Municipalities





# The Corporation of the Township of Chapple

P.O. Box 4, Barwick, Ontario P0W 1A0 CANADA

Phone: (807) 487-2354  
www.chapple.on.ca

Fax: (807) 487-2406  
CAO@chapple.on.ca

November 12, 2025

Sent via email: [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
800 – 155 University Avenue  
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

## RE: Elect Respect Pledge

Please be advised that at its Regular meeting on November 12, 2025, Council of the Township of Chapple passed the following resolution:

**RES-173-2025**

**Moved by: Vaughan Wilson**

**Seconded by: Trish Neilson**

Be it resolved that the correspondence from the Township of Southgate regarding the Elect Respect pledge; be received and supported as outlined below:

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 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 Township of Chapple 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 Township of Chapple Council 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 Doug Shipley and MPP Hon. Doug Downey, the Ontario Provincial Police, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Cindy Nielson  
 CAO Clerk-Treasurer  
 Township of Chapple



## Town of The Blue Mountains

32 Mill Street, Box 310  
THORNBURY, ON N0H 2P0  
<https://www.thebluemountains.ca>

**OFFICE OF:** Mayor Andrea Matrosovs

Email: [mayor@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:mayor@thebluemountains.ca)

Phone: 519-599-3131 Ext 406

December 5, 2025

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park  
5th Floor  
777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
Email: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

**RE: Town of The Blue Mountains Opposition to Bill 68 and the Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities**

Honourable Minister McCarthy,

The Town of The Blue Mountains Council would like to express our concerns regarding Bill 68 and the proposed consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional authorities. As a community with a strong and long-standing partnership with our local conservation authorities, we believe the proposed regional restructuring does not align with the best interests of our residents or the unique environmental needs of our community.

As a Council, we support provincial efforts to enhance efficiency through standardized fee schedules, policies, guidelines and online permitting systems. However, we believe that these improvements can be achieved without compromising the local expertise, responsiveness and accountability that watershed-based authorities currently provide.

The proposed consolidation raises significant concerns for The Blue Mountains Council regarding the loss of local expertise and the reduction of accessible, timely support for residents, builders and developers. Local conservation authorities possess a deep knowledge of watershed conditions, natural hazards and community priorities that cannot be effectively replicated at a broader regional scale. Centralizing the functions of local conservation authorities risks diluting the community-driven programming and tailored services that protect natural resources and support sustainable development in The Blue Mountains, while also diminishing meaningful municipal representation in decision-making. We are further concerned that a top-down

structure may introduce unnecessary transition costs, red tape and additional layers of bureaucracy, which hinder efficiency, rather than improve it.

Given these concerns, we urge you to reconsider the implications of the proposed amalgamation and to directly engage with municipalities and conservation authorities before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments. We respectfully request that the province consider alternative approaches that maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities while supporting shared objectives of modernization and efficiency improvements. We believe that strengthening and supporting existing structures, rather than replacing them, will help to preserve local expertise, ensure consistent service delivery, and uphold the principles of community-focused governance.

Thank you for considering the perspective of the Town of The Blue Mountains. We look forward to your response and hopeful reconsideration of this proposal.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Matrosovs', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Andrea Matrosovs  
Town of The Blue Mountains

December 16, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Via Email [todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org](mailto:todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities - Bill 68**

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, at its regular meeting held on December 15, 2025, supported the following resolution regarding the above noted matter.

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 Municipality of Chatham-Kent (through its original municipalities) established the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and St Clair Region Conservation Authority (both initially formed in 1961);

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 5%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed 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, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy 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 the Municipality of Chatham-Kent 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 Municipality of Chatham-Kent 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 Municipality of Chatham-Kent 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 and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

**Judy Shantz**

Digitally signed by Judy  
Shantz  
Date: 2025.12.17 13:56:56  
-05'00'

Judy Shantz, CMO

Director Municipal Governance/Clerk

C

Local MP and MPPs

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Rural Ontario Municipal Association

Ontario Municipalities

Conservation Authorities in Ontario





December 17, 2025

Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Sent via email: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

To Hon. Todd McCarthy

**Re: Grey Highlands Resolution 2025-732**

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the December 17, 2025 meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

**2025-732**

**That Council receive report CAO.25.10, Conservation Authorities Act proposed changes for information; and**

**Whereas the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) empowers municipalities such as Grey Highlands 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 Municipality of Grey Highlands is a unique vast rural area that contains three watershed jurisdictions within its boundaries, being served by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA), the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA), and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA); and**

**Whereas local municipalities, including Grey Highlands, currently provide a significant portion of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides a much smaller share; and**

**Whereas municipalities have governed 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**

**The Municipality of Grey Highlands**

206 Toronto Street South, Unit One - P.O. Box 409 Markdale, Ontario N0C 1H0  
519-986-2811 Toll-Free 1-888-342-4059 Fax 519-986-3643  
[www.greyhighlands.ca](http://www.greyhighlands.ca) [info@greyhighlands.ca](mailto:info@greyhighlands.ca)

**Whereas conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy 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 the Municipality of Grey Highlands 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**

**That while Grey Highlands 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**

**That Grey Highlands 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**

**That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and all municipalities in Ontario.**

A recorded vote was requested by Deputy Mayor Nielsen.

**By a vote of 7-0, CARRIED.**

### **The Municipality of Grey Highlands**

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If you require anything further, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Amanda Fines-VanAlstine  
Manager of Corporate Services/Municipal Clerk  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

cc. MP, Alex Ruff [alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca](mailto:alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca)  
MPP, Paul Vickers [paul.vickers@ontario.ca](mailto:paul.vickers@ontario.ca)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario [resolutions@smo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@smo.on.ca)  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association [roma@toma.on.ca](mailto:roma@toma.on.ca)  
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority [publicinfo@svca.on.ca](mailto:publicinfo@svca.on.ca)  
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority [t.lanthier@greysauble.on.ca](mailto:t.lanthier@greysauble.on.ca)  
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority [admin@nvca.on.ca](mailto:admin@nvca.on.ca)  
All municipalities in Ontario

**The Municipality of Grey Highlands**

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December 18, 2025

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor.  
777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
Email: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

Honourable Minister McCarthy,

**Re: Municipality of Meaford Response to Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities**

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Meaford adopted the following resolution at its meeting on December 15, 2025.

Moved by: Councillor Uhrig  
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Keaveney

**Whereas the Conservation Authorities Act 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 municipalities within Grey and Bruce Counties established the North Grey Region Conservation Authority in 1957 and the Sauble Valley Conservation Authority in 1958 which amalgamated into the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) in 1985; and**

**Whereas local municipalities currently provide approximately 44% of total GSCA funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 7%; and**

**Whereas municipalities have governed 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 hectares of land, much of which was donated or sold by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy 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 whose objects include overseeing conservation authorities and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities in Ontario with municipal cost contribution yet to be defined; and**

**Whereas the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to reduce Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring; and**

**Whereas under this proposal, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) would be consolidated into a new "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority" that is over 23,000 square kilometres in size and consists of 80 municipalities; and**

**Whereas the Province already has the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to address issues related to permitting, by establishing guidance, online permitting platforms and technical standards through legislation that could help build homes; and**

**Whereas the GSCA has already undertaken significant modernization work aligned with provincial objectives, including Information Technology / Information Management, and leveraging technology to streamline**



**planning and permit review processes processing 100% of major permits within the provincial timelines in 2024;**

**Therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Meaford 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**

**Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford does not support the proposed “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models; and**

**Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford affirms that large-scale regional consolidation is unnecessary, would introduce substantial transition costs, and would divert resources away from frontline watershed programs. The Council further asserts that restructuring at this scale would erode local decision-making, weaken municipal accountability, and disrupt long-standing community partnerships that are central to delivering responsive watershed management; and**

**Be it further resolved that while the Municipality of Meaford supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down approach 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**

**Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford urges the Province to strengthen centralized standards, resources, and tools rather than undertaking broad structural amalgamation and to provide sustainable, predictable provincial funding across conservation authorities to enable local CAs to advance ongoing digitization and systemization work that has**



already resulted in improved efficiency and consistency in recent years;  
and

**Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford believes that the Province's proposed new online permitting portal can be implemented within the existing conservation authority framework without requiring structural amalgamation; and**

**Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford requests that the Ministry engage meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities, conservation authorities, and local Indigenous communities before advancing any consolidation, to ensure that any changes reflect both local needs and the practical realities of implementation; and**

**Be it further resolved that this resolution be included in the Municipality's ERO response and forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, all of Ontario's municipalities, MPPs, conservation authorities, AMO, and Conservation Ontario.**

Carried - Resolution #2025-46-09

Yours sincerely,

**Allison Penner**

Deputy Clerk / Manager, Legislative Services

Municipality of Meaford

21 Trowbridge Street West, Meaford

519-538-1060, ext. 1110 | [apenner@meaford.ca](mailto:apenner@meaford.ca)



cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities  
All Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament  
All Ontario Conservation Authorities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Conservation Ontario  
Submission to Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257

December 18, 2025

**Re: Township of Chatsworth Resolution:  
Proposed Changes to Conservation Authorities in Ontario**

Please be advised at Township of Chatsworth Council held on December 17, 2025 the following resolution was carried:

THAT CAO Clerk's Report 2025-29 be hereby received for information; and

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act 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 municipalities within Grey and Bruce Counties established the North Grey Region Conservation Authority in 1957 and the Sauble Valley Conservation Authority in 1958 which amalgamated into the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) in 1985; and

WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide approximately 44% of total GSCA funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 7%; and

WHEREAS municipalities have governed 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 hectares of land, much of which was donated or sold by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy 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 whose objects include overseeing conservation authorities and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities in Ontario with municipal cost contribution yet to be defined; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to reduce Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring; and

WHEREAS under this proposal, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) would be consolidated into a new “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” that is over 23,000 square kilometres in size and consists of 80 municipalities; and

WHEREAS the Province already has the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to address issues related to permitting, by establishing guidance, online permitting platforms and technical standards through legislation that could help build homes; and

WHEREAS the GSCA has already undertaken significant modernization work aligned with provincial objectives, including Information Technology / Information Management, and leveraging technology to streamline planning and permit review processes processing 100% of major permits within the provincial timelines in 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Township of Chatsworth 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

THAT the Township of Chatsworth does not support the proposed “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models; and

THAT the Township of Chatsworth affirms that large-scale regional consolidation is unnecessary, would introduce substantial transition costs, and would divert resources away from frontline watershed programs. The Council further asserts that restructuring at this scale would erode local decision-making, weaken municipal accountability, and disrupt long-standing community partnerships that are central to delivering responsive watershed management; and

THAT while the Township of Chatsworth supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down approach 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





**TOWNSHIP OF CHATSWORTH**  
**316837 Highway 6, RR 1**  
**Chatsworth, Ontario N0H 1G0**  
**Telephone 519-794-3232 – Fax 519-794-4499**

THAT the Township of Chatsworth requests a funding framework to be provided to member municipalities on what the financial model will look like for Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) moving forward. Chatsworth further calls on the Province to clarify what commitments they will make in terms of funding the current costs of CA's along with any unexpected costs that could come with this significant of a transition and change; and

THAT the Township of Chatsworth urges the Province to strengthen centralized standards, resources, and tools rather than undertaking broad structural amalgamation and to provide sustainable, predictable provincial funding across conservation authorities to enable local CAs to advance ongoing digitization and systemization work that has already resulted in improved efficiency and consistency in recent years; and

THAT the Township of Chatsworth believes that the Province's proposed new online permitting portal can be implemented within the existing conservation authority framework without requiring structural amalgamation; and

THAT the Township of Chatsworth requests that the Ministry engage meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities, conservation authorities, and local First Nations before advancing any consolidation, to ensure that any changes reflect both local needs and the practical realities of implementation; and

THAT this resolution be included in the Municipality's ERO response and forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, all of Ontario's municipalities, MPPs, conservation authorities, AMO, and Conservation Ontario.

Should you require additional information please contact the undersigned at 519-794-3232 ex. 134 or [tyler.zamostny@chatsworth.ca](mailto:tyler.zamostny@chatsworth.ca).

Sincerely,

Tyler Zamostny  
Deputy Clerk



**The Corporation of the  
Township of Perry**

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: December 17, 2025

Resolution No.: 2025- 448

Moved By: Joe Lumley Seconded By: Paul Sowrey

**Be it resolved that** the Council of the Township of Perry hereby support the October 21, 2025 resolution of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury regarding the removal of the HST/GST from new homes purchased as primary residences to support housing affordability;

**And that** Council endorse the related November 3, 2025 supporting resolution of the Municipality of South Huron;

**And that** Council's supporting resolution be circulated to the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Municipality of South Huron, the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MP Scott Aitchison and MPP Graydon Smith, AMO, and to all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried: ✓ Defeated:                     

  
Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

RECORDED VOTE		
Council	For	Against
<b>Councillors</b> Jim Cushman		
Joe Lumley		
Margaret Ann MacPhail		
Paul Sowrey		
<b>Mayor</b> Norm Hofstetter		



**Simon Granat**  
 Legislative Coordinator  
 Town of Newmarket  
 395 Mulock Drive  
 P.O. Box 328 Station Main  
 Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7  
 Email: [sgranat@newmarket.ca](mailto:sgranat@newmarket.ca)  
 Tel: 905-953-5300 ext. 2207  
 Fax: 905-953-5100

December 19, 2025

Sent to: [leora@kdcandada.org](mailto:leora@kdcandada.org)

Dear Leora Kim:

**RE: Proclamation Request - January 26, 2026 – Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day**

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I am writing to advise that your proclamation request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#), and the Town of Newmarket will proclaim January 26, 2026 as Kawasaki Disease Awareness Month. Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Granat  
 Legislative Coordinator



December 19, 2025

Sent to: [leora@kdcanda.org](mailto:leora@kdcanda.org)

Dear Leora Kim:

**RE: Proclamation Request - January 26, 2026 – Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day**

On behalf of the Town of Newmarket Council I am pleased to recognize January 26, 2026 as Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day.

Thank you for submitting your request and for your contributions to the community.

Yours sincerely,

John Taylor  
Mayor