

From: Minister, MECP (MECP) <Minister.MECP@ontario.ca>

Sent: November-05-20 6:37 PM

Subject: Updating the Conservation Authorities Act

Good evening:

Following the 2019 amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, my ministry conducted a review of relevant legislation and regulations that govern conservation authorities.

Through a series of engagement sessions and an online survey in late 2019/early 2020, we received feedback from conservation authorities and a diverse group of stakeholders, including the public, municipalities, landowners, the agricultural sector, the development sector, and environmental and conservation organizations.

Our government is now proposing a series of legislative amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act*, as set out in the [Bill](#), which would:

- Improve consistency and transparency of the programs and services that conservation authorities deliver;
- Provide additional oversight for municipalities and the province; and
- Streamline conservation authority permitting and land use planning reviews to increase accountability, consistency and transparency.

For more information on proposed legislative amendments in support of this initiative, please read our Information Notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario at www.ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2646.

Later this fall and winter, we will also be proposing a series of regulations and policies to further support the goals of our review of conservation authorities, such as defining mandatory programs and services conservation authorities must provide. We will post the first phase of these regulatory proposals for public feedback in the coming weeks.

There will also be the opportunity for you to participate in a **webinar** with ministry staff from the new Conservation and Source Protection Branch, in the Land and Water Division, which is now responsible for the general oversight of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and conservation authority policy and programs.

Keley Katona, Director of the Conservation and Source Protection Branch, will be in contact with you in the coming days to provide details on the timing and how to participate in the webinar. You can reach Keley at ca.office@ontario.ca if you have any questions.

Thank you again for your input during our review. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that conservation authorities serve the best interests of the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks