

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
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July 2, 2021

Cynthia Moyle
Acting Clerk
Mississippi Mills
town@mississippimills.ca

Dear Cynthia Moyle:

I am pleased to write to you today to announce updates to the Drainage Act that will take effect on June 30, 2021.

As part of its plan to create a more competitive business environment, the Ontario government has amended the province's Drainage Act to reduce regulatory burden and streamline approvals for farmers, rural landowners and municipalities in undertaking drainage projects, while maintaining effective environmental standards that help to keep Ontarians safe and healthy.

The changes, implemented through a new Minister's Regulation and consequential amendments to Ontario Regulation 381/12 – Forms will:

- Provide a simplified process for eligible minor improvements to municipal drains;
- Simplify the process for approving updates to the engineer's report for changes to the design made during construction; and
- Include the list of prescribed persons that must be notified for drainage projects that are currently outlined in various sections of the Drainage Act.

As part of the government's commitment to reduce red tape, streamlining processes under the Drainage Act will not only save time and money for those undertaking projects, but will encourage the development of more small-scale green infrastructure projects that provide environmental benefits. Such projects include riparian buffers and grassed waterways, to improve water quality and reduce flooding.

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Simplifying the process to undertake minor changes to drainage projects under the Drainage Act will not impact the environmental protections that are in place to help ensure that Ontarians are safe and healthy. Those existing environmental protections will be maintained to help ensure ongoing investment in drainage infrastructure.

Drainage projects must comply with all applicable law. [A Guide for Engineers Working Under the Drainage Act in Ontario, Publication 852](#) provides an overview of the legislation and policies that must be considered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Thompson" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

COVID-19 Reminders

- For vaccination booking details visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>
- Follow your local public health/safety measures: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>
- Practice physical distancing – stay 2 metres away from others in public
- Get the facts - www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread