



## **Special LRCA Board Meeting**

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority  
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams  
2025-11-17 16:30 - 17:30 EST

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Declaration: "The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we live and work are the traditional lands of the Anishinabek Nation and the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

As partners in the conservation and protection of the Lakehead Watershed along with First Nations communities, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and other Indigenous peoples, the LRCA is committed to the common vision of a healthy, safe and sustainable Lakehead Watershed."

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

THAT: the Agenda is adopted as published.

### **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

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### **6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on November 26, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

THAT: the time being \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.

**From:** [ca.office \(MECP\)](#)  
**To:** [rchartrand@huroneast.com](mailto:rchartrand@huroneast.com); [pproderick@loyalist.ca](mailto:pproderick@loyalist.ca); [mhalpin@centralelgin.org](mailto:mhalpin@centralelgin.org); [bchapman@oshawa.ca](mailto:bchapman@oshawa.ca); [michael.palleschi@brampton.ca](mailto:michael.palleschi@brampton.ca); [s.pack@township.limerick.on.ca](mailto:s.pack@township.limerick.on.ca); [mallaire@amherstburg.ca](mailto:mallaire@amherstburg.ca); [vmink1@yahoo.ca](mailto:vmink1@yahoo.ca); [John.ChallinorII@milton.ca](mailto:John.ChallinorII@milton.ca); [ruhrig@meaford.ca](mailto:ruhrig@meaford.ca); [gsmallegange@burlingtonhydro.com](mailto:gsmallegange@burlingtonhydro.com); [Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca); [pwarren@kawarthalakes.ca](mailto:pwarren@kawarthalakes.ca); [tnoble@centralelgin.org](mailto:tnoble@centralelgin.org); [clare.riepma@barrie.ca](mailto:clare.riepma@barrie.ca); [dblunt](mailto:dblunt); [dberes@tilsonburg.ca](mailto:dberes@tilsonburg.ca); [paul.tiessen@leamington.ca](mailto:paul.tiessen@leamington.ca); [gene.brahanev@trenthills.ca](mailto:gene.brahanev@trenthills.ca); [edmmcugan@gmail.com](mailto:edmmcugan@gmail.com); [igtorlone@gmail.com](mailto:igtorlone@gmail.com); [royfhuett@gmail.com](mailto:royfhuett@gmail.com); [jmetcalfe@npca.ca](mailto:jmetcalfe@npca.ca); [Member.SKaufman@ConservationSudbury.ca](mailto:Member.SKaufman@ConservationSudbury.ca); [lana.mitchell@northbay.ca](mailto:lana.mitchell@northbay.ca); [jscott@townfbwg.com](mailto:jscott@townfbwg.com); [michael.metcalf@trenthills.ca](mailto:michael.metcalf@trenthills.ca); [don.kuntze@quintewest.ca](mailto:don.kuntze@quintewest.ca); [bmcgillis@southstormont.ca](mailto:bmcgillis@southstormont.ca); [gwaterfield@perth.ca](mailto:gwaterfield@perth.ca); [deputymayor@westgrey.com](mailto:deputymayor@westgrey.com); [s.hollingsworth@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:s.hollingsworth@cityssm.on.ca); [sdensham@northstormont.ca](mailto:sdensham@northstormont.ca); [ggrimes@villageofpointedward.com](mailto:ggrimes@villageofpointedward.com); [councillor.ainslie@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor.ainslie@toronto.ca); [dtrentowsky@westperth.com](mailto:dtrentowsky@westperth.com); [dheinbuck@abca.ca](mailto:dheinbuck@abca.ca); [dellingwood@crca.ca](mailto:dellingwood@crca.ca); [generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca); [cdarling@cloca.com](mailto:cdarling@cloca.com); [terri.leroux@cvc.ca](mailto:terri.leroux@cvc.ca); [amanda.donald@crowevalley.com](mailto:amanda.donald@crowevalley.com); [tbyrne@erca.org](mailto:tbyrne@erca.org); [laliberte@qrca.on.ca](mailto:laliberte@qrca.on.ca); [slawson@grandriver.ca](mailto:slawson@grandriver.ca); [t.lanthier@greysable.on.ca](mailto:t.lanthier@greysable.on.ca); [csharma@hrca.on.ca](mailto:csharma@hrca.on.ca); [Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca); [mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com](mailto:mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com); [elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca](mailto:elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca); [r.baldwin@lrc.ca](mailto:r.baldwin@lrc.ca); [Tammy.Cook](mailto:Tammy.Cook); [jmaxwell@prca.on.ca](mailto:jmaxwell@prca.on.ca); [mark.peacock@lrc.ca](mailto:mark.peacock@lrc.ca); [Rhonda.bateman@lrc.ca](mailto:Rhonda.bateman@lrc.ca); [pbeard@mvca.on.ca](mailto:pbeard@mvca.on.ca); [David.Vallier](mailto:David.Vallier); [smcityre@mvc.on.ca](mailto:smcityre@mvc.on.ca); [ilee-yates@npca.ca](mailto:ilee-yates@npca.ca); [Carl.Jorgensen](mailto:Carl.Jorgensen); [rebecca.morrow@nbmca.ca](mailto:rebecca.morrow@nbmca.ca); [jvincent@rvca.on.ca](mailto:jvincent@rvca.on.ca); [jsmith](mailto:jsmith); [bmcnevin@quintecconservation.ca](mailto:bmcnevin@quintecconservation.ca); [alison.mcdonald@rrca.on.ca](mailto:alison.mcdonald@rrca.on.ca); [sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca](mailto:sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca); [e.downing@svca.on.ca](mailto:e.downing@svca.on.ca); [Corrina.Barrett](mailto:Corrina.Barrett); [chickerdike@nation.ca](mailto:chickerdike@nation.ca); [kphillips@scrca.on.ca](mailto:kphillips@scrca.on.ca); [jmackenzie@trca.on.ca](mailto:jmackenzie@trca.on.ca); [annett@thamesriver.on.ca](mailto:annett@thamesriver.on.ca); [acoleman@conservationontario.ca](mailto:acoleman@conservationontario.ca)  
**Cc:** [ca.office \(MECP\)](#)  
**Subject:** Consultation on the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities  
**Date:** November 7, 2025 3:55:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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

Greetings,

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

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

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

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

In addition, the important work that conservation authorities do to protect people and property from the risks of flooding and other natural hazards will not change. Regional

conservation authorities would continue to deliver provincially mandated programs. These include drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act*, managing development and other activities in areas at risk of natural hazards—such as floodplains, shorelines, watercourses, and wetlands—and providing flood forecasting and warning services. Conservation authorities would continue to manage their lands and recreational trails, providing Ontarians access to local natural areas and outdoor activities. Regional conservation authorities would also continue to be able to provide additional municipal and other watershed programs and services set out under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Existing conservation authority board members would continue to serve until the expiration of their terms next year, with changes to governance and structure to be initiated following municipal elections in October 2026.

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

To learn more about this proposal, a virtual information session for conservation authorities will be held on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 10am**. To register for this session, please email [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca).

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

Thank you,

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

Hassaan Basit  
Chief Conservation Executive  
Office of the Chief Conservation Executive



*Taking pride in strengthening Ontario, its places and its people*

**Please Note:** As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats.





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

ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) 025-1257

number

Notice type Policy

Act Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990

Posted by Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Notice stage Proposal

Proposal posted November 7, 2025

Comment period November 7, 2025 - December 22, 2025 (45 days) Open

Last updated November 7, 2025

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m.  
on:

**December 22, 2025**

## Proposal summary

Ontario is proposing changes to improve the conservation authority (CA) system to free up resources for front-line service delivery to help protect communities and better align the work of CAs with provincial priorities. This proposal seeks feedback on proposed boundaries and criteria for the regional consolidation of Ontario's 36 CAs.

## Proposal details

### Background

Ontario's 36 conservation authorities play a vital role in watershed management and protecting communities from natural hazards like floods. Conservation authorities deliver programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources. The *Conservation Authorities Act* also establishes areas where a permit must be obtained from a conservation authority before a person engages in a development activity in certain circumstances or interference with a

watercourse. Conservation authorities review permit applications and issue permits to builders, municipalities and property owners for development activities such as housing developments, installation of sewage systems in areas affected by risks of natural hazards such as floodplains, shorelines, river and stream valleys, and wetlands. Permitting administered by conservation authorities helps to ensure that development does not happen in unsafe areas and that it does not worsen the impacts of flooding or erosion in surrounding areas.

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

### **Improving Conservation Authorities**

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

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

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

The regional conservation authorities would continue to focus on managing natural hazards and watershed health, drawing on decades of local knowledge and partnerships. With better tools and more resources for front-line staff, the regional conservation authorities would operate with greater consistency and transparency, deliver faster services to municipalities and permit appl 6 s,

while ensuring decisions continue to be based on sound science.

## **Proposal for Regional Consolidation**

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

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

- **Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority** – covers southwestern Ontario watersheds draining into Lake Erie, including the Thames, Grand, and Sydenham systems, supporting agriculture, industry, and shoreline communities. Primarily based on the Northern Lake Erie Secondary Watershed
- **Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority** – includes watersheds along Lake Huron's northern shore and the Lake Superior basin, supporting conservation and flood management across vast northern watersheds. Primarily based on the Eastern Lake Huron and southern portion of Eastern Georgian Bay Secondary Watershed and in the north the central portion of Northwestern Lake Superior Secondary Watershed.
- **Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** – extends along the western Lake Ontario shoreline from Niagara through Halton and Peel, encompassing urban and rural watersheds that support the Greater Toronto–Hamilton corridor. Primarily based on the western portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- **Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** – covers the watersheds from north of Toronto, including parts of York Regi 7 est

through Peel Region, east through Durham, and into parts of the Kawarthas, balancing urban growth and agricultural lands while protecting key tributaries to Lake Ontario. Primarily based on the central portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.

- **Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** – Includes watersheds draining to eastern Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte, including the Trent and Cataraqui systems, supporting a mix of agricultural, urban, and coastal communities. Primarily based on the eastern portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- **St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority** – Encompasses watersheds flowing into the St. Lawrence River, including the Raisin and South Nation areas, coordinating flood and water management across eastern Ontario. Primarily based on the Upper St. Lawrence, Lower Ottawa River, and southern portion of the Central Ottawa River Secondary Watersheds.
- **Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** – Brings together the conservation authorities in the northeast, maintaining coordination across large watershed areas and shared northern infrastructure and ecosystems. Its work focuses on maintaining healthy waterways, protecting natural habitats, and promoting sustainable land and water use across major watershed areas that span parts of Northern Lake Huron, the Abitibi, Missinaibi, Mattagami, Wanipitai, French, and Upper Ottawa River systems.

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

In addition, the important work that conservation authorities do to protect people and property from the risks of flooding and other natural hazards will not change. The regional conservation authorities would continue to fulfill provincially mandated programs such as drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act*, regulating, development and other activities in areas at risk of natural hazards like flooding and erosion (e.g. floodpla

shorelines, watercourse and wetlands), flood forecasting and warning, and managing their lands and recreational trails so that Ontarians have access to local natural areas and outdoor activities.

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

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

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

### **Providing feedback and discussion questions**

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

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

- What do you see as key factors to support a successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authority consolidation?

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

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

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

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

future date.

## Supporting materials

### Related files

[Supplemental Document\\_EN.pdf](https://ero.ontario.ca/public/2025-11/Supplemental%20Document_EN.pdf) ([https://ero.ontario.ca/public/2025-11/Supplemental%20Document\\_EN.pdf](https://ero.ontario.ca/public/2025-11/Supplemental%20Document_EN.pdf))  
pdf (Portable Document Format file) 1.67 MB

### Related links

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

## View materials in person

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

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

MECP Conservation and Source Protection Branch  
300 Water Street North tower, 5th floor  
Peterborough, ON  
K9J 3C7  
Canada

## Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

[Read our commenting and privacy policies.](#) ([/page/commenting-privacy](#))

**Submit by mail**

Public Input Coordinator  
MECP Conservation and Source  
Protection Branch  
300 Water Street North tower, 5th  
floor  
Peterborough, ON  
K9J 3C7  
Canada

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## Connect with us

### Contact Public Input Coordinator

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

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

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

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## Summary of Proposal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Boundary Criteria

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

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

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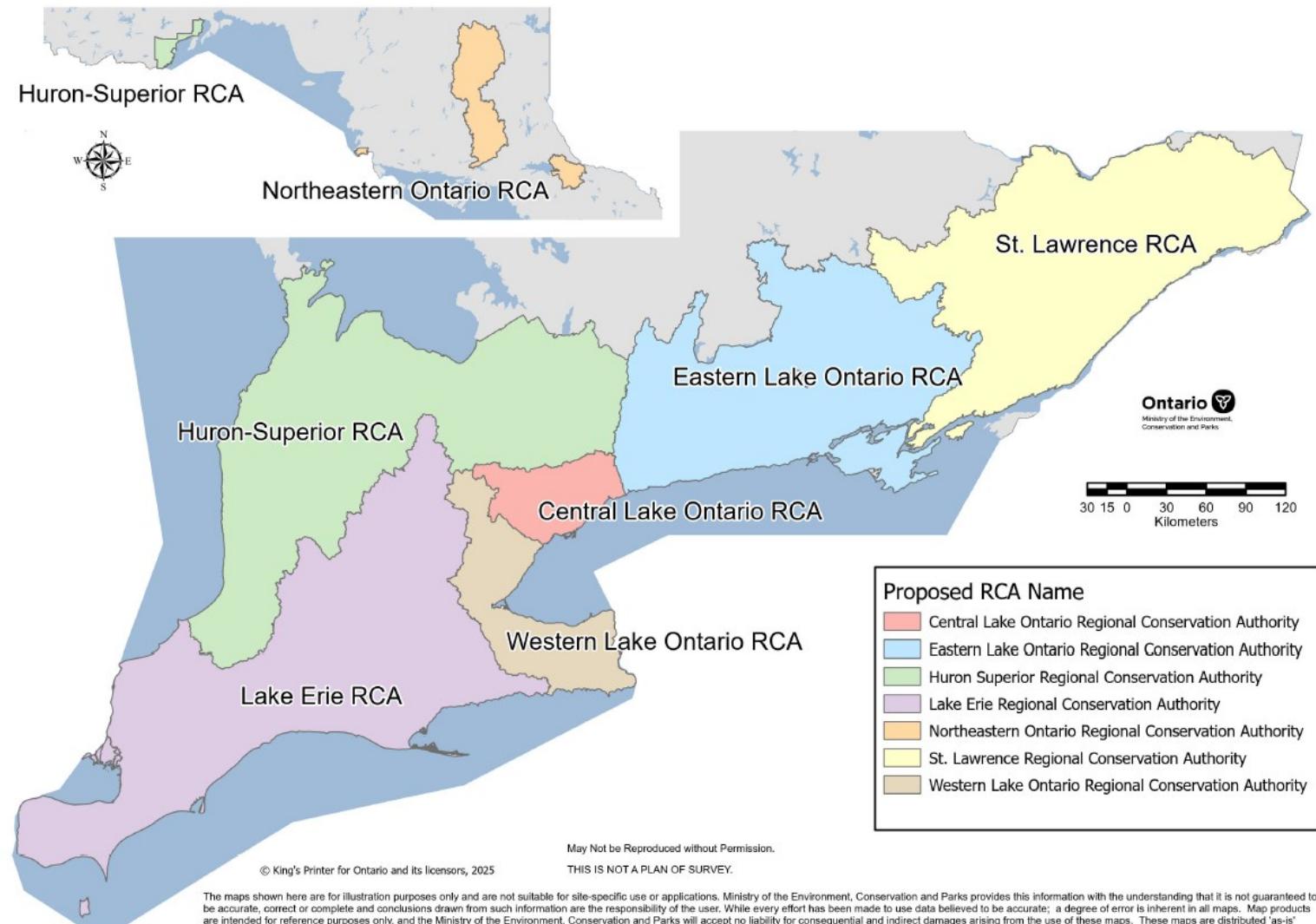
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## Maps

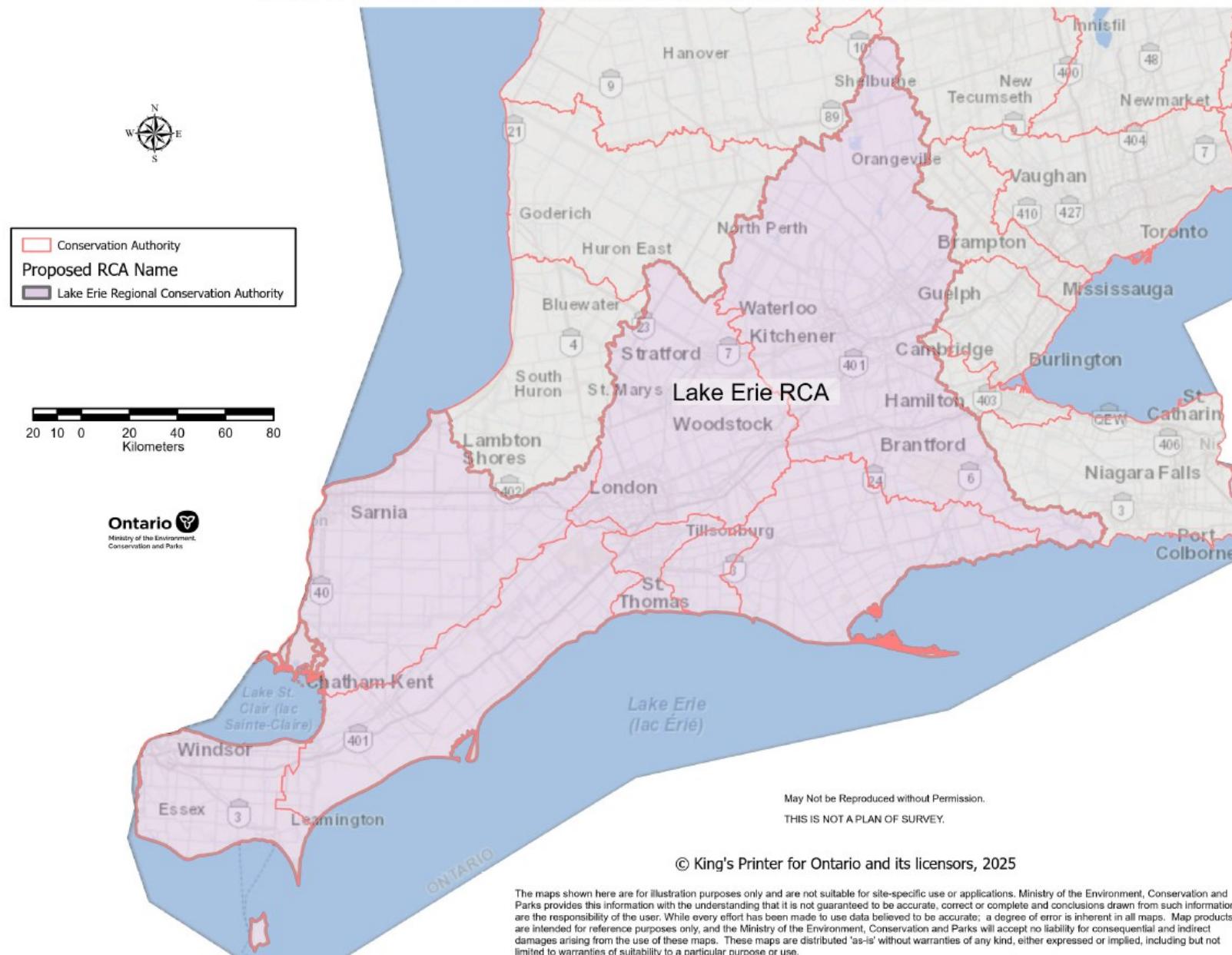
### Map of Proposed Regional Conservation Authorities

## PROPOSED 7 REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (RCA)



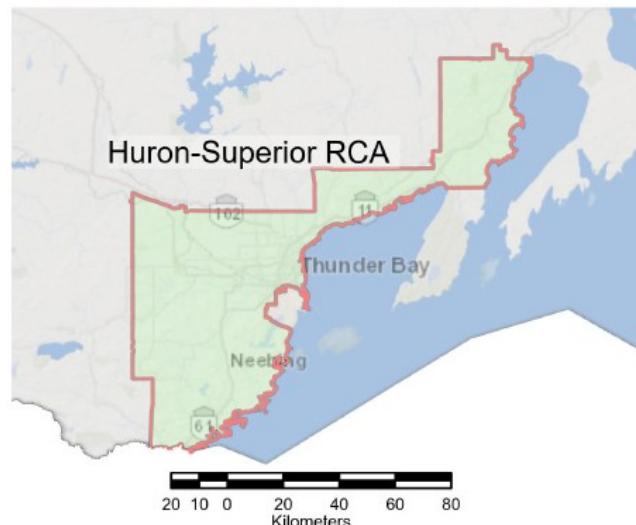
## Map of Proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority

# LAKE ERIE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



# Map of Proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority

## HURON-SUPERIOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



- Conservation Authority
- Proposed RCA Name
- Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority



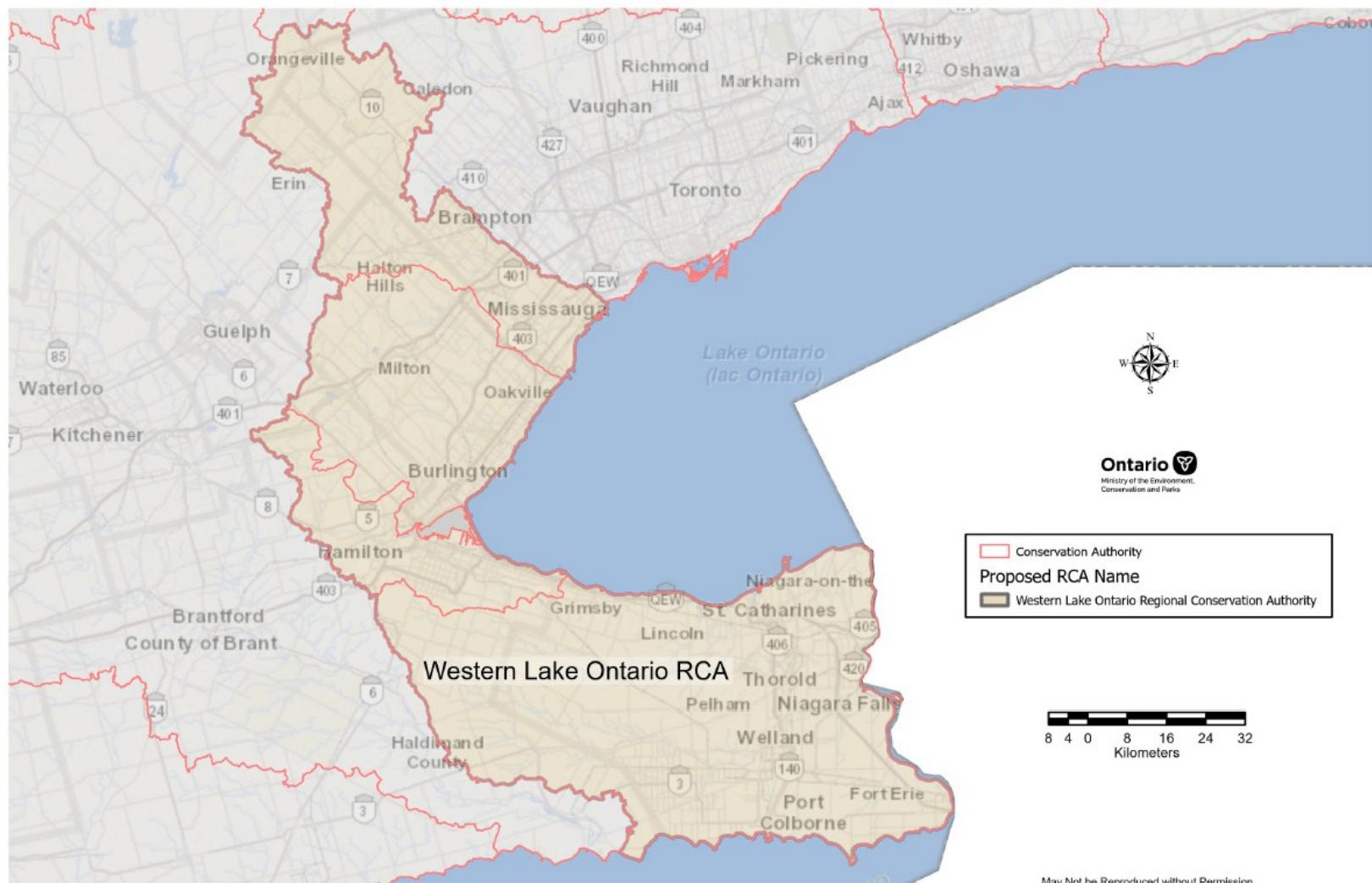
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## Map of Proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

### WESTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

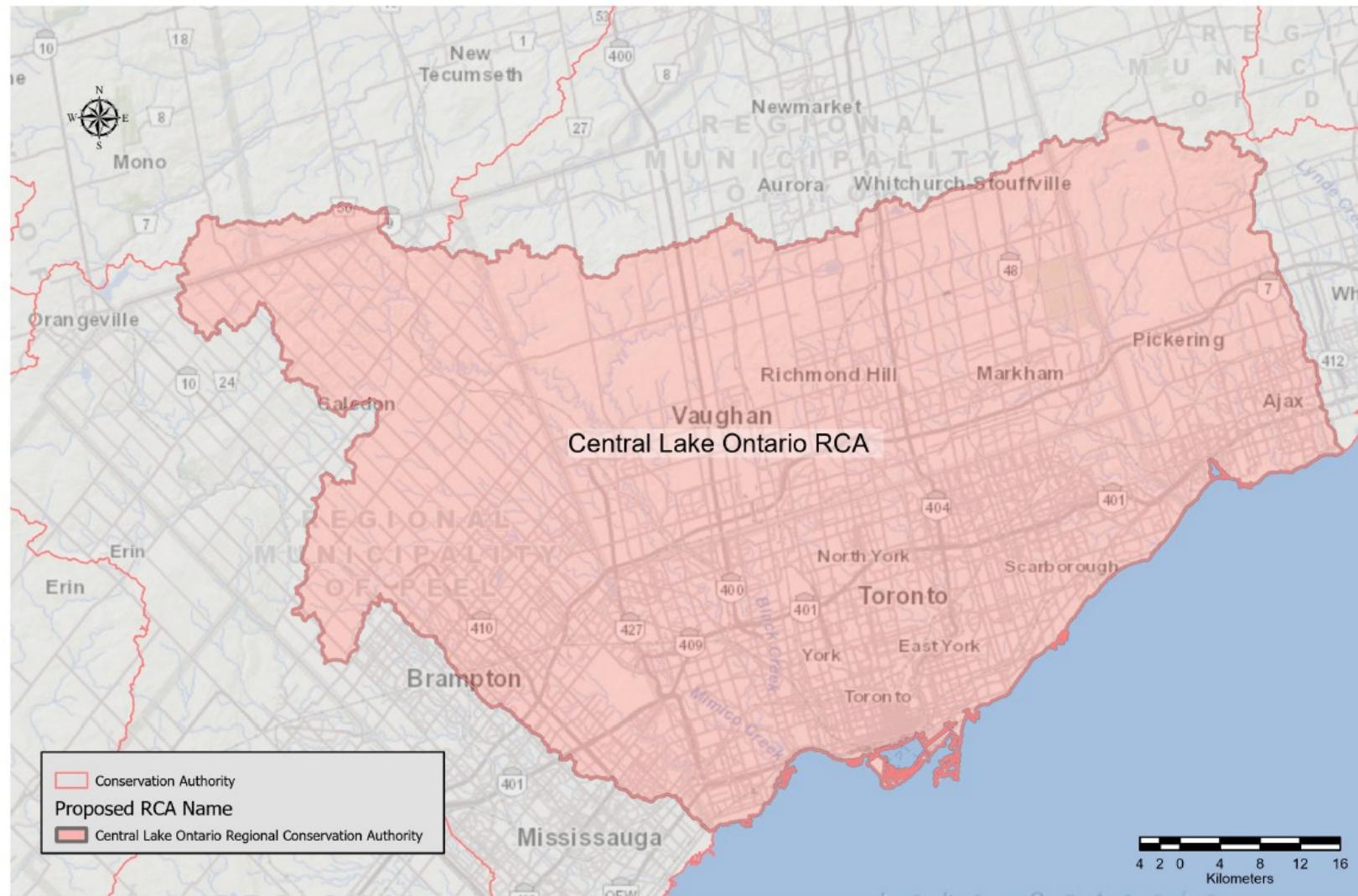


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# Map of Proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

## CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



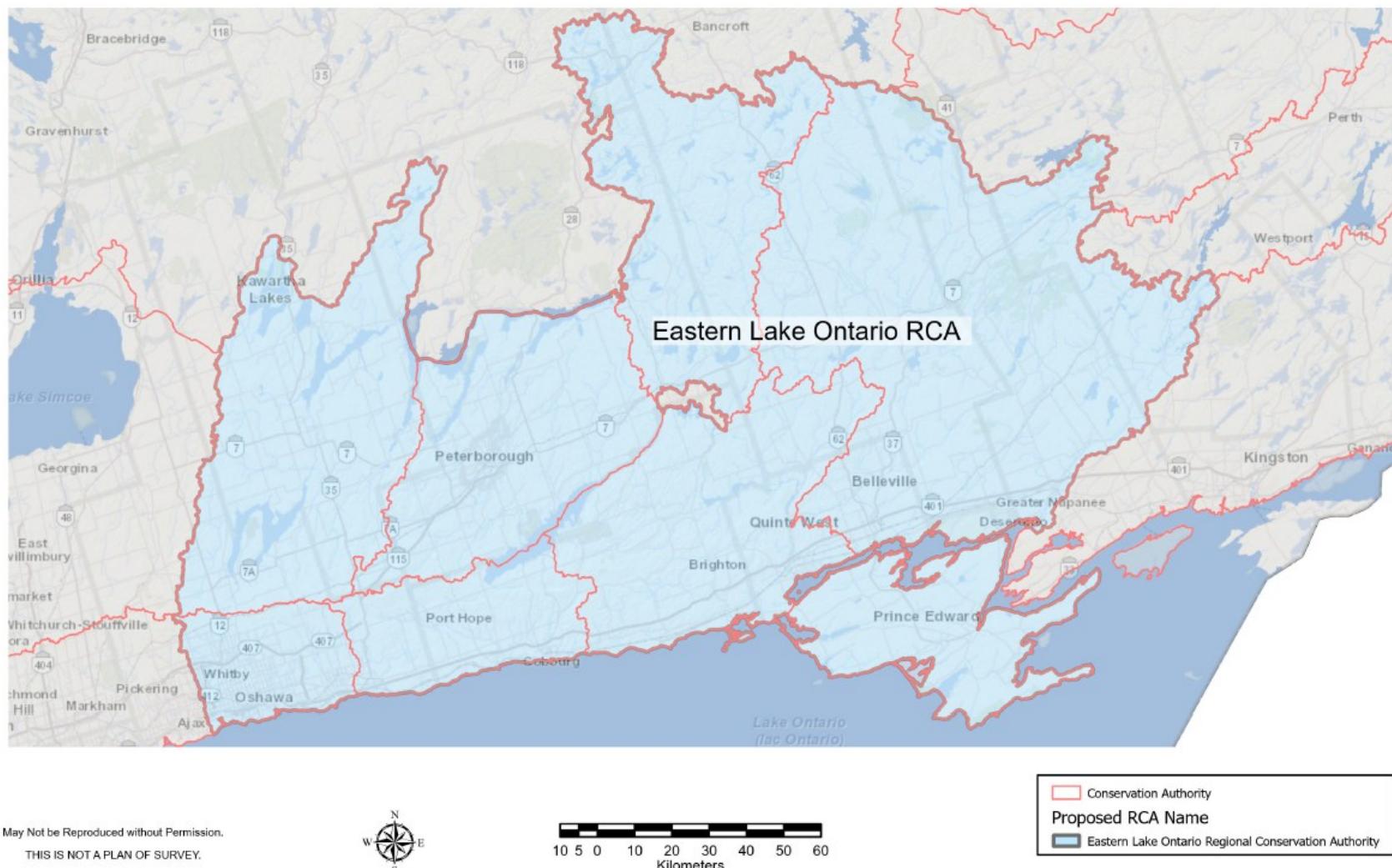
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# Map of Proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

## EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



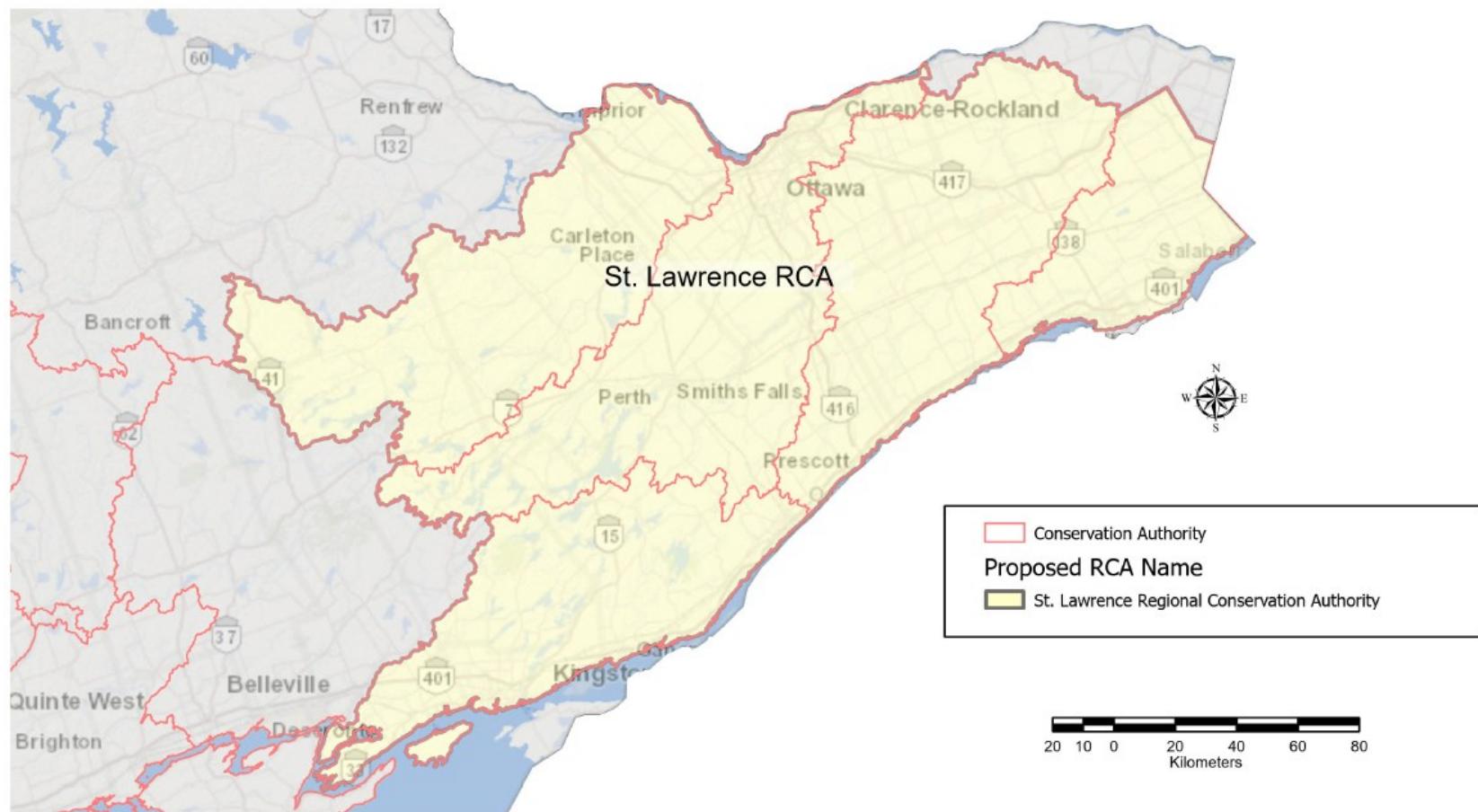
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Ontario  
Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

## Map of Proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

### ST. LAWRENCE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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# Map of Proposed Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

## NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority

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

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

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

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

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

## Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

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

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

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

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

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

## Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

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

- Toronto and Region CA

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

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

## Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

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

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

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

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

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

## St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

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

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

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

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

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

## Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

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

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

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

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

**SCHEDULE 3**  
**CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT**

**1 Section 1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* is amended by adding the following definition:**

“Agency” means the corporation established under section 35.1; (“Agence”)

**2 Subsections 23.1 (9) and (10) of the Act are repealed.**

**3 Subsections 23.3 (5) and (6) of the Act are repealed.**

**4 The Act is amended by adding the following Part:**

**PART VIII.1**  
**THE AGENCY**

**Corporation established**

**35.1** A corporation to be known in English as Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and in French as Agence ontarienne de protection de la nature is established as a corporation without share capital.

**Crown agent**

**35.2** The Agency is an agent of the Crown and may exercise its powers only as an agent of the Crown.

**Application of other Acts**

***Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010***

**35.3** (1) Except for section 41, subsection 43 (1) and section 46 of the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010*, which apply to the Agency with necessary modifications, that Act does not apply to the Agency except as prescribed by regulation and subject to such modifications as may be prescribed by regulation.

**Same, indemnity**

(2) The Agency shall not give an indemnity under section 46 of the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010* to any person unless the indemnity has been approved in accordance with section 28 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

***Corporations Information Act***

(3) The *Corporations Information Act* does not apply to the Agency, except as prescribed by regulation and subject to such modifications as may be prescribed by regulation.

**Objects of Agency**

**35.4** The objects of the Agency are the following:

1. Oversee the governance of authorities and other aspects of authorities such as their operations, including the programs and services they provide, to further the purposes of the Act.
2. Oversee the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for authorities in Ontario.
3. Promote consistent policies, standards and fees for programs and services provided by authorities.
4. Assess and report on the effectiveness of authorities in furthering the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario, including outcomes related to the implementation of their programs and services.
5. Oversee and evaluate the financial performance of authorities to ensure their long-term operational and capital financial sustainability, including the financial sustainability of their programs and services required under section 21.1.
6. Guide and evaluate the strategic planning by authorities to ensure it aligns with provincial objectives.
7. Support the development and implementation of a standardized and centralized system for processing applications for permits issued by authorities.
8. Lead the development and implementation of digital strategies and shared services to support the operations of authorities, including their programs and services.
9. Support strategic investment in programs and services provided by authorities, including leveraging funding available to Ontario and authorities.
10. Advise the Government of Ontario in respect of the programs and services authorities provide under the Act and any matters related to the objects of the Agency.
11. Any other objects prescribed by regulation.

## General powers

**35.5** (1) Except as limited by this Act and the regulations, the Agency has the capacity, rights and powers of a natural person for carrying out its objects.

### Financial activities

(2) The Agency shall not borrow money, invest funds or manage financial risks except in accordance with a by-law of the Agency that has been approved by the Minister of Finance.

### Co-ordination of certain financial activities

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Ontario Financing Authority shall co-ordinate and arrange all borrowing, investing of funds and managing of financial risk of the Agency.

### Direction of Minister of Finance

(4) The Minister of Finance may, in writing, direct a person other than the Ontario Financing Authority to perform the functions referred to in subsection (3).

### Same

(5) A direction of the Minister of Finance under subsection (4) may be general or specific and may include terms and conditions that the Minister of Finance considers advisable.

### Use of revenue

(6) The Agency shall carry out its operations without the purpose of gain and shall not use its revenue, including all money or assets it receives by grant, contribution or otherwise, for any purpose other than to further its objects.

### Revenues and investments

(7) Despite Part I of the *Financial Administration Act*, the revenues and investments of the Agency do not form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

### No political donations

(8) The Agency shall not make any political donations.

### No registration as charity

(9) The Agency shall not apply for or obtain registration as a registered charity under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada).

### Board of directors

**35.6** (1) Subject to the regulations, the Agency shall consist of at least five and not more than 12 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council who shall form the board of directors of the Agency.

### Ineligibility

(2) A person is not eligible to be appointed if the person is a member of Parliament or a member of the Assembly or satisfies such criteria as may be prescribed by regulation.

### Considerations

(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall, in appointing a person as a member of the board of directors, take into consideration,

- (a) the person's knowledge and experience in public administration, corporate governance and finance;
- (b) the person's knowledge of programs and services provided by authorities; and
- (c) such other matters as may be prescribed by regulation.

### Term

(4) A member of the board of directors shall be appointed for a term of up to three years, as may be determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and, subject to subsection (5), may be reappointed.

### Limit

(5) A person may serve as a member of the board of directors for no more than nine years in total, whether the years are served consecutively or otherwise.

### Termination

(6) A member ceases to be a member of the board of directors if, before the term of the member expires,

- (a) the Lieutenant Governor in Council revokes the member's appointment; or
- (b) the member dies, resigns as a member of the board of directors or becomes bankrupt.

## **Expenses**

(7) The members of the board of directors shall be paid such remuneration and expenses as may be determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

## **Chair and vice-chairs**

(8) Subject to subsection (12), the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall designate a chair and up to two vice-chairs from among the members of the board of directors.

## **Chair's role**

(9) The chair shall preside over the meetings of the board of directors.

## **Absence of chair**

(10) If the chair is absent or otherwise unable to act or if the office is vacant, a vice-chair has the powers and shall perform the duties of the chair.

## **Absence of chair and vice-chairs**

(11) In the absence of the chair and the vice-chairs, a director that the board of directors designates has the powers and shall perform the duties of the chair.

## **Where no designation**

(12) If the Lieutenant Governor in Council has not designated a chair or a vice-chair, the members of the board of directors may select a chair or vice-chair from among their members to hold office as provided for by by-law, until such time as the Lieutenant Governor in Council makes a designation.

## **Board meetings**

**35.7** (1) The board of directors shall meet regularly throughout the year and in any event shall hold at least four meetings in each year.

## **Quorum**

(2) A majority of the board of directors constitutes a quorum for the conduct of the business of the board.

## **Chief executive officer**

**35.8** (1) The Secretary of the Cabinet shall appoint the first chief executive officer to be employed by the Agency.

## **Same**

(2) The Agency shall appoint and employ a chief executive officer following the completion of the term of the first chief executive officer and shall appoint subsequent chief executive officers.

## **Role**

(3) The chief executive officer is responsible for the management and administration of the affairs of the Agency, subject to the supervision and direction of the board of directors.

## **Restriction**

(4) The chief executive officer shall not be a member of the board of directors.

## **Remuneration**

(5) The Agency shall pay such remuneration and benefits to the Chief Executive Officer as is determined by the board of directors.

## **Employees, facilities, services**

**35.9** The chief executive officer may, as the chief executive officer considers necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Agency, appoint employees, arrange for facilities and equipment and obtain expert or technical services.

## **Affairs of Agency**

**35.10** (1) Subject to this Act, the board of directors shall manage or supervise the management of the activities and affairs of the Agency.

## **By-laws and resolutions**

(2) The board of directors may make by-laws and pass resolutions regulating its proceedings and generally for the conduct and management of the affairs of the Agency.

## **Officers**

(3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (2), the board of directors may make by-laws or pass resolutions to appoint officers and assign to them such powers and duties as the board considers appropriate.

### **Councils, committees, etc.**

**35.11** The board of directors may, by by-law, establish such councils, committees and other bodies as it considers appropriate.

#### **Delegation**

**35.12** (1) Subject to subsection (2), the board of directors may, as it considers appropriate, by by-law delegate any of its powers or assign any of its duties under this Act or any other Act to employees of the Agency or to any councils, committees or other bodies established under section 35.11 and may impose conditions and restrictions with respect to the delegation.

#### **Restrictions**

(2) The board shall not delegate the powers prescribed by regulation, nor shall it assign any duties prescribed by regulation.

#### **Fiscal year**

**35.13** The fiscal year of the Agency begins on April 1 in each year and ends on March 31 in the following year.

#### **Financial statements**

**35.14** (1) The Agency shall prepare annual financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

#### **Auditors**

(2) The Agency shall appoint one or more auditors licensed under the *Public Accounting Act, 2004* to audit the financial statements of the Agency for each fiscal year.

#### **Auditor General**

(3) The Auditor General may also audit the financial statements of the Agency.

#### **Other audits**

(4) In addition to the requirement for an annual audit,

- (a) the Minister may, at any time, audit any aspect of the operations of the Agency; and
- (b) the Auditor General may, at any time, audit any aspect of the operations of the Agency.

#### **Report**

**35.15** The Agency shall provide a report to the Minister no later than March 31, 2029 and every subsequent three years on March 31 respecting the following:

1. The activities and effectiveness of the Agency during the previous three years in achieving its objects.
2. The Agency's planned activities to achieve its objects during the year of the report and the subsequent two years and the Agency's strategic priorities for the longer term.
3. Such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.

#### **Direction by Minister**

**35.16** (1) Where the Minister considers it to be in the public interest to do so, the Minister may issue directions to the Agency.

#### **Timing**

(2) Except in the case of a Minister's direction mentioned in subsection 35.21 (5) that must be issued during a notice period respecting a proposed direction of the Agency, the Minister may issue a direction to the Agency at any time.

#### **Same**

(3) For greater certainty, in addition to a direction mentioned in subsection 35.21 (5) respecting a proposed direction of the Agency, the Minister may at any time issue a direction requiring the Agency to issue a direction.

#### **Binding**

(4) The Agency shall comply with every direction of the Minister.

#### **General or particular**

(5) A direction of the Minister may be general or particular in its application and may relate to the Agency's exercise of its powers and duties under this or any other Act.

#### **Non-application of *Legislation Act, 2006***

(6) Part III (Regulations) of the *Legislation Act, 2006* does not apply to directions of the Minister.

#### **Public availability**

(7) The Agency shall publish every direction under this section on a website.

## **Conflict**

(8) For greater certainty, in the event of a conflict between a direction issued under this section and a provision of any applicable Act or regulation, the Act or regulation prevails.

## **Minister may require information**

**35.17** (1) The Minister may require that the Agency provide information to the Minister at the time and in the manner specified by the Minister.

## **Same**

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the information that the Agency may be required to provide includes information relating to its operations, employees, assets, liabilities, rights and obligations, which may include plans, reports and financial statements, including audited financial statements, and may include personal information.

## **Personal information**

(3) The Minister may collect personal information from the Agency or from individuals for the purposes of exercising powers or performing duties under this Act.

## **Duty to comply**

(4) The Agency shall comply with subsection (1) within the time and in the form that the Minister specifies.

## **No notice to individual**

(5) Any collection by the Minister of personal information under this section is exempt from the application of subsection 39 (2) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

## **Consistent purpose**

(6) For the purposes of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, personal information collected under this section may be used by the Ministry for the purposes of exercising powers or performing duties under this Act, and that use shall be deemed to be for a purpose that is consistent with the purpose for which the personal information was obtained or compiled.

## **Provision of information despite privilege**

(7) The Agency shall comply with the requirement to provide information under subsection (1) even if the information required to be provided is privileged or confidential.

## **No waiver of privilege**

(8) A disclosure under subsection (7) does not constitute a waiver of privilege.

## **Publication**

(9) Subject to subsections (10) and (11), if directed by the Minister to publish all or a portion of the information provided to the Minister under subsection (1), the Agency shall do so at the time and in the manner specified by the Minister.

## **Limitation**

(10) Subsection (9) does not apply in respect of any privileged or confidential information.

## **Same**

(11) Subsection (9) shall not be read as limiting the application of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect of the information.

## **Memorandum of understanding, accountability etc.**

**35.18** (1) The Minister and the Agency shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, which must set out, at a minimum,

- (a) the requirements relating to the governance of the Agency and the expectations between the Ministry and Agency regarding the Agency's operations;
- (b) the accountability relationships between the Minister and the Agency and the roles and responsibilities for Ministry and Agency personnel, the chair, vice-chairs and board of directors; and
- (c) the requirements with which the Agency shall comply in connection with carrying out its objects.

## **Conflict**

(2) For greater certainty, in the event of a conflict between the memorandum of understanding and a provision of any applicable Act or regulation, the Act or regulation prevails.

## **Review**

**35.19** (1) The Minister may,

- (a) require that policy, legislative or regulatory reviews related to the powers and duties of the Agency under this Act, the regulations or the memorandum of understanding be carried out by,
  - (i) the Agency or by a person or entity acting on behalf of the Agency, or
  - (ii) a person or entity specified by the Minister; or
- (b) require that reviews of the Agency, of its operations or of both, including, without limitation, performance, governance, accountability and financial reviews, be carried out by,
  - (i) the Agency or by a person or entity acting on behalf of the Agency, or
  - (ii) a person or entity specified by the Minister.

#### **Access to records**

(2) If a review is carried out by a person or entity specified by the Minister, the Agency shall give the person or entity and the employees and agents of the person or entity access to all records and other information required to conduct the review.

#### **Report to Minister**

(3) The results of reviews under this section shall be reported to the Minister, within the time specified by the Minister.

#### **Terms and conditions**

(4) The Minister may impose terms and conditions with respect to a review carried out under this section.

#### **Winding up**

**35.20** (1) If the Minister considers it to be in the public interest to wind up the affairs of the Agency, the Minister may do all things necessary to accomplish that, including dealing with the assets and liabilities of the Agency by,

- (a) liquidating or selling the assets and paying the proceeds into the Consolidated Revenue Fund;
- (b) transferring the assets and liabilities to the Crown, including another agency of the Crown; or
- (c) transferring the Agency's employees to the Crown or to another agency of the Crown.

#### **Dissolution**

(2) When the winding up of the Agency is complete, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by order, dissolve the Agency as of the date specified in the order.

#### **Agency directions to authorities**

##### **Definition**

**35.21** (1) In this section,

“notice period” means the 45-day period following the day on which a copy of a proposed direction is provided under subsection (4) or such other period as may be prescribed by the regulations.

##### **Issuing of directions**

(2) The Agency may issue directions to one or more authorities, in accordance with this section and the regulations, governing the operations of authorities, including the programs and services that authorities provide.

##### **Same**

(3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (2), and subject to the regulations, a direction may address the following:

1. Key performance indicators, key results or service delivery targets.
2. Service standards.
3. Information technology.
4. Procurement.
5. Training of members and employees.
6. Budgeting.
7. Asset management plans.
8. Strategic planning.

##### **Notice**

(4) Except as otherwise provided by the regulations, the Agency shall, before issuing a direction, initiate the notice period in respect of the direction by providing the Minister with a copy of the proposed direction.

### **Minister's options during notice period**

(5) The Minister may, during the notice period, issue a direction under section 35.16 directing the Agency to take any action in relation to the proposed direction as specified in the Minister's direction and requiring the Agency to report to the Minister on what actions the Agency took to comply with the Minister's direction.

### **Timing**

(6) The Agency shall not issue a direction until,

- (a) if the Minister provides the Agency with a written statement that the Agency may proceed with the proposed direction, the day the Minister's statement is issued;
- (b) if the Minister issues a direction mentioned in subsection (5), the day the Minister provides the Agency with a written statement that the Minister is satisfied that the Agency has complied with the Minister's direction; or
- (c) if the Minister does not issue any direction or provide any written statement mentioned in clause (a) during the notice period, the day after the final day of the notice period.

### **Compliance by authority**

(7) An authority shall comply with every direction of the Agency.

### **General or particular**

(8) A direction of the Agency may be general or particular in its application.

### **Non-application of Part III of the *Legislation Act, 2006***

(9) Part III (Regulations) of the *Legislation Act, 2006* does not apply to directions of the Agency.

### **Publication**

(10) The Agency shall publish every direction under this section on a website.

### **Conflict**

(11) For greater certainty, in the event of a conflict between a direction issued under this section and a provision of any applicable Act or regulation or a Minister's direction under section 35.16, the Act, regulation or Minister's direction prevails.

### **Agency guidelines for authorities**

**35.22** (1) The Agency may issue guidelines to authorities in respect of the same matters for which directions may be issued under section 35.21 or for the purpose of supporting the implementation of any directions issued under section 35.21.

### **Publication**

(2) The Agency shall publish every guideline under this section on a website.

### **Agency may require information**

**35.23** (1) The Agency may, for the purposes of achieving its objects, require that an authority provide information to the Agency at the time and in the manner specified by the Agency.

### **Same**

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the information that the Agency may require from an authority includes information relating to its operations, employees, assets, liabilities, rights and obligations, which may include plans, reports and financial statements, including audited financial statements, and may include personal information.

### **Personal information**

(3) The Agency may collect personal information from an authority or from individuals for the purposes of exercising powers or performing duties under this Act.

### **Duty to comply**

(4) An authority shall comply with a requirement under subsection (1) within the time and in the form that the Agency specifies.

### **No notice to individual**

(5) Any collection by the Agency of personal information under this section is exempt from the application of subsection 39 (2) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

### **Consistent purpose**

(6) For the purposes of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, personal information collected under this section may be used by the Agency for the purposes of exercising powers or performing duties under this Act, and that use shall be deemed to be for a purpose that is consistent with the purpose for which the personal information was obtained or compiled.

### **Provision of information despite privilege**

(7) An authority required under subsection (1) to provide information shall comply with the requirement even if the information required to be provided is privileged or confidential.

### **No waiver of privilege**

(8) The disclosure of information required under subsection (7) does not constitute a waiver of privilege.

### **Publication**

(9) Subject to subsections (10) and (11), if directed by the Agency to publish all or a portion of the information provided to the Agency under subsection (1), the authority shall do so at the time and in the manner specified by the Agency.

### **Limitation**

(10) Subsection (9) does not apply in respect of any privileged or confidential information.

### **Same**

(11) Subsection (9) shall not be read as limiting the application of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect of the information.

### **Funding of Agency**

**35.24** The Minister may provide funding to the Agency on the terms and conditions that the Minister considers appropriate.

### **Fees to be paid to Agency**

**35.25** (1) The Agency may, by notice,

- (a) establish and require the payment of fees in respect of any matter related to the performance of its duties and the exercise of its powers under this Act, including respecting a direction issued under section 35.21;
- (b) provide for the refund or partial refund of a fee referred to in clause (a);
- (c) require the payment of interest or penalty, including payment of collection costs, when fees referred to in clause (a) are unpaid or are paid after the due date; and
- (d) specify the rate of interest or penalty, or the basis for determining that rate.

### **Fees to be paid to another person**

(2) In such circumstances as may be prescribed by the regulations, the Agency may, by notice,

- (a) establish and require the payment of fees described in clause (1) (a) to a person other than the Agency;
- (b) provide for that person to retain all or part of the fees; and
- (c) provide for the refund or partial refund of the fees by that person.

### **Fees, etc. not public money**

(3) Any amount of a fee required to be paid under a notice and any interest or penalty that the Agency or a person is authorized to retain pursuant to the notice is not public money within the meaning of the *Financial Administration Act*.

### **Publication**

(4) The Agency shall publish every notice under this section on a website.

### **General or particular**

(5) A notice of the Agency may be general or particular in its application.

### **Legislation Act, 2006, Part III**

(6) Part III of the *Legislation Act, 2006* does not apply to notices of the Agency.

### **5 The Act is amended by adding the following section:**

#### **Cost recovery**

**35.26** (1) For the purpose of recovering the costs and expenses the Agency incurs, the Agency may, in accordance with any regulations,

- (a) determine the amounts of the costs and expenses that the authorities collectively owe to the Agency; and
- (b) apportion those amounts to the authorities.

### **Notice to authority**

(2) After apportioning amounts to an authority under clause (1) (b), the Agency may issue a notice to the authority, in accordance with any regulations, setting out the amount the authority shall pay to the Agency.

## **Payment**

(3) Upon receipt of the notice, the authority shall pay the amount specified in the notice in accordance with any directions set out in the notice.

## **Debt due**

(4) The amount set out in the notice issued to the authority is a debt due by the authority to the Agency and may be enforced by the Agency as such.

## **6 The Act is amended by adding the following sections:**

### **Crown liability**

#### **No personal liability**

**39.1** (1) No cause of action arises against any current or former member of the Executive Council, employee, officer or agent of the Crown or an investigator appointed under subsection 23.1 (4) or an administrator appointed under subsection 23.3 (1) for any act done in good faith in the exercise or performance, or intended exercise or performance, of the person's powers, duties or functions under this Act or for any alleged neglect, default or other omission in the exercise or performance in good faith of those powers, duties or functions.

#### **Crown remains vicariously liable**

(2) Despite subsection 8 (3) of the *Crown Liability and Proceedings Act, 2019*, subsection (1) of this section does not relieve the Crown of liability to which it would otherwise be subject as a result of the acts or omissions of a person specified in that subsection.

#### **No liability for acts or omissions of others**

(3) No cause of action arises against the Crown or any person specified in subsection (1) for an act or omission of a person other than the Crown or a person specified in that subsection, if the act or omission is related, directly or indirectly, to the exercise or performance, or intended exercise or performance, of a power, duty or function under this Act.

#### **Employment, etc. with Agency**

(4) If a person who is an employee or agent of the Crown is employed in or assigned to or otherwise performs duties directly for the Agency, the person is deemed to be an employee of the Agency and not an employee or agent of the Crown specified in subsection (1) in relation to the person's acts or omissions arising from the employment, assignment or performance for the purposes of this section and sections 39.2 and 39.4 as well as any claim for vicarious liability.

#### **Proceedings by Crown not prevented**

(5) This section does not apply with respect to proceedings brought by the Crown.

### **Agency liability**

#### **No personal liability**

**39.2** (1) No cause of action arises against any current or former member, director, officer, volunteer, employee or agent of the Agency or any person appointed to a council, committee or other body established by the Agency under section 35.11 for any act done in good faith in the exercise or performance, or intended exercise or performance, of the person's powers, duties or functions under this Act or for any alleged neglect, default or other omission in the exercise or performance in good faith of those powers, duties or functions.

#### **Agency remains vicariously liable**

(2) Subsection (1) does not relieve the Agency of liability to which it would otherwise be subject as a result of the acts or omissions of a person specified in that subsection.

#### **No liability for acts or omissions of others**

(3) No cause of action arises against the Agency or any person specified in subsection (1) for an act or omission of a person other than the Agency or a person specified in that subsection, if the act or omission is related, directly or indirectly, to the exercise or performance, or intended exercise or performance, of a power, duty or function under this Act.

#### **Proceedings by Crown not prevented**

(4) This section does not apply with respect to proceedings brought by the Crown.

### **Authority liability**

#### **No personal liability**

**39.3** (1) No cause of action arises against any current or former member, director, officer, volunteer, employee or agent of an authority or any person appointed to an advisory board established under subsection 18 (2) for any act done in good faith in the exercise or performance, or intended exercise or performance, of the person's powers, duties or functions under this Act or for any alleged neglect, default or other omission in the exercise or performance in good faith of those powers, duties or functions.

### **Authority vicariously liable**

(2) Subsection (1) does not relieve an authority of liability to which it would otherwise be subject as a result of the acts or omissions of a person specified in that subsection.

### **Proceedings by Crown not prevented**

(3) This section does not apply with respect to proceedings brought by the Crown.

### **Proceedings barred**

**39.4** (1) No proceeding shall be commenced against,

- (a) any person specified in subsection 39.1 (1) in respect of a matter referred to in that subsection;
- (b) the Crown or any person specified in subsection 39.1 (1) in respect of a matter referred to in subsection 39.1 (3);
- (c) any person specified in subsection 39.2 (1) in respect of a matter referred to in that subsection;
- (d) the Agency or any person specified in subsection 39.2 (1) in respect of a matter referred to in subsection 39.2 (3); or
- (e) any person specified in subsection 39.3 (1) in respect of a matter referred to in that subsection.

### **Application**

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply with respect to an application for judicial review or a claim for a constitutional remedy or any proceeding that is specifically provided for under this Act, but does apply with respect to any other court, administrative or arbitral proceeding claiming any remedy or relief, including specific performance, an injunction, declaratory relief, a remedy in contract, restitution, unjust enrichment or tort, a remedy for breach of trust or fiduciary obligation or any equitable remedy, enforcement of a judgment, order or award made outside Ontario or any form of compensation or damages including loss of revenue or profit.

### **Proceedings by Crown not prevented**

(3) This section does not apply with respect to proceedings brought by the Crown.

### **7 (1) Subsection 40 (1) of the Act is amended by adding the following clauses:**

- (m.1) prescribing provisions of the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010* and the *Corporations Information Act* and prescribing modifications affecting those provisions for the purposes of subsections 35.3 (1) and (3);
- (m.2) prescribing objects of the Agency for the purposes of paragraph 11 of section 35.4;
- (m.3) prescribing limits on the Agency's capacities, rights and powers described in subsection 35.5 (1);
- (m.4) for the purposes of subsection 35.6 (1) in respect of the number of members of the board of directors of the Agency appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council,
  - (i) prescribing a minimum number that is lower than five, and
  - (ii) prescribing a maximum number that is lower than 12;
- (m.5) prescribing criteria for ineligibility for appointment to the board of directors of the Agency for the purposes of subsection 35.6 (2);
- (m.6) prescribing for the purposes of clause 35.6 (3) (c), matters to be taken into consideration in appointing a person as a member of the board of directors of the Agency;
- (m.7) prescribing circumstances for the purposes of subsection 35.25 (2);
- (m.8) governing transitional matters that may arise due to the enactment of Schedule 3 to the *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2)*;

### **(2) Subsection 40 (1) of the Act is amended by adding the following clause:**

- (m.9) governing the recovery of costs and expenses by the Agency under section 35.26, including,
  - (i) the types of costs and expenses that may be recovered by the Agency,
  - (ii) the method of determining the amounts of the costs and expenses that the authorities collectively owe to the Agency,
  - (iii) the method of apportioning amounts, and
  - (iv) requirements respecting notices, including the contents of the notice and the process for issuing them;

### **(3) Subsection 40 (3) of the Act is amended by adding the following clauses:**

- (l) prescribing powers and duties for the purposes of subsection 35.12 (2);
- (m) prescribing matters to be addressed in a report for the purposes of paragraph 3 of section 35.15;

- (n) governing directions issued by the Agency under subsection 35.21 (2), including,
  - (i) prescribing a period other than 45 days for the purposes of the definition of “notice period” in subsection 35.21 (1),
  - (ii) prescribing matters that may not be addressed by the directions or circumstances in which directions do not apply,
  - (iii) requiring the Agency to consult with prescribed persons or bodies before providing the Minister with a copy of a proposed direction, and
  - (iv) for the purposes of subsection 35.21 (4), specifying circumstances in which the Agency is not required to provide the Minister with a copy of a proposed direction;

**Commencement**

**8 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this Schedule comes into force on the day the *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2)* receives Royal Assent.**

**(2) Section 5 and subsection 7 (2) come into force on a day to be named by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.**