



Mayor David Hederson
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via email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

December 2, 2025

The Honourable Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1A8

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities (Bill 68 and ERO Posting 025-1257)

Dear Minister McCarthy,

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Tudor and Cashel, I am writing to advise that Council has requested that the following letter be sent in response to Environmental Registry Posting No. 025-1257, which outlines the Province's proposal to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional entities.

Council respects and supports the Province's intention to increase efficiency, improve consistency, and strengthen fiscal accountability within the conservation authority system. We recognize the importance of modernization to enhance service delivery and reduce administrative challenges across Ontario.

However, Council has significant concerns regarding the proposed formation of the "**Eastern Lake Ontario Conservation Authority**," which would amalgamate Quinte Conservation Authority and Crow Valley Conservation Authority with five neighbouring authorities into a single regional body spanning more than 28,000 square kilometres. After careful consideration, Council believes that this proposed configuration may not achieve the intended outcomes and could create new challenges for rural communities such as ours.



Specifically, Council is concerned that:

1. **The proposed region is geographically vast and operationally complex**, bringing together municipalities with very different watershed characteristics, climatic conditions, and service needs.
2. **Local accountability and representation would be diminished**, as decision-making would shift farther from the communities most affected by conservation authority activities.
3. **Transition costs and administrative disruptions** associated with consolidation—governance restructuring, IT integration, staff realignment, and policy harmonization—may divert attention and resources from essential watershed management services.
4. **Local permitting and environmental review processes may experience delays**, particularly in rural areas, as regional structures would be less familiar with site-specific conditions that are critical to timely approvals and responsible environmental oversight.

It is also important to note that Quinte Conservation Authority has already taken meaningful steps toward modernization, including undertaking internal efficiency reviews, consolidating three former authorities into a single watershed-based organization, enhancing mandatory service delivery, and improving transparency and client communication. These actions demonstrate that significant progress can be achieved within the existing watershed governance model.

Tudor and Cashel Township relies on responsive, locally informed watershed management due to its diverse natural features, including lakes, wetlands, forested lands, and areas prone to flooding. We are concerned that a larger, more centralized authority may not be able to respond as effectively to the unique environmental conditions within our region.

For these reasons, **the Township of Tudor and Cashel does not support the proposed boundary configuration for the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority** as currently presented in ERO Posting 025-1257. We respectfully request that the Province consider alternative models that maintain local accountability, reflect natural watershed boundaries, and support both modernization and effective service delivery.

Council further requests that the Ministry engage directly with municipalities, conservation authorities, and Indigenous partners across Eastern Ontario before finalizing any boundary adjustments or legislative amendments under Bill 68.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The Township of Tudor and Cashel remains committed to working collaboratively with the Province to strengthen conservation services in a manner that supports both local needs and provincial objectives.



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Sincerely,

Mayor David Hederson
Township of Tudor and Cashel

cc:

- MPP Ric Bresee, Hastings—Lennox & Addington
- Warden Bob Mullin, Hastings County
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Brad McNevin, CAO, Quinte Conservation Authority
- Amanda Donald, Interim General Manager, Crow Valley Conservation Authority
- Conservation Ontario