



Provincial Government Updates/Changes to Conservation Authorities

Prepared For: CVCA Board of Directors

20 November 2025

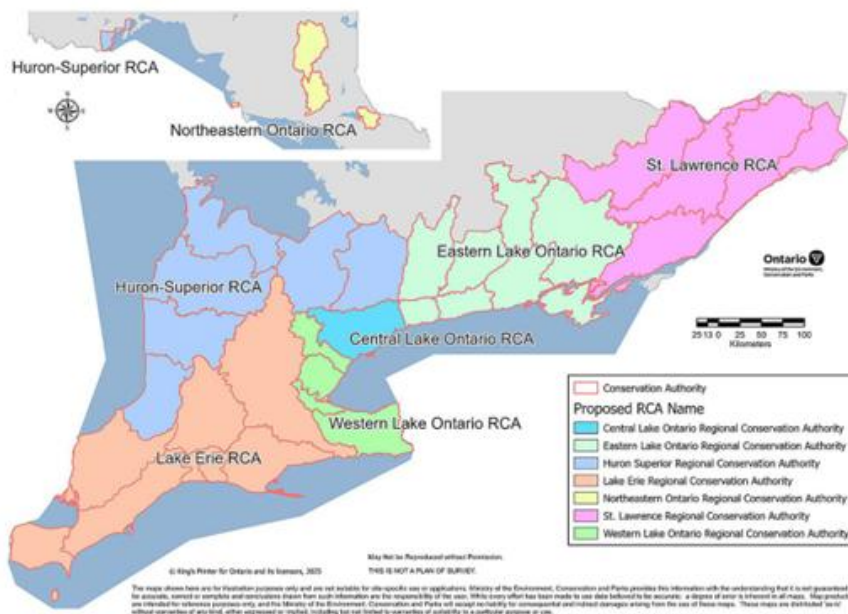
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Agenda Item #12

Provincial Government

- On 31 October 2025 the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Todd McCarthy – along with Hassaan Basit – Chief Conservation Executive – announced the government will be introducing legislation to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
- The proposed purpose of the OPCA will provide centralized leadership, efficient governance, strategic direction and oversight of all conservation Authorities
- <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1006682/ontario-creating-new-conservation-authority-agency-to-improve-service-delivery-and-protect-communities>
- In addition to the development of the OPCA, the proposal amalgamates Crowe Valley with Lower Trent, Quinte Conservation, Ganaraska, Otonabee, Kawartha and Central Lake Ontario into the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority. See map below obtained from Facebook.

PROPOSED 7 REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (RCA)



- Since the announcement was made on 31 October 2025, [Bill 68](#) was introduced to the Ontario Legislature which includes changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the development of the OPCA
 - Conservation Ontario has provided a high-level summary of the proposed changes to the act to include the following points:
 1. **Agency Governance:** The proposed OPCA would be governed by a BOD of 5-12 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Members cannot be a member of Parliament. Members will serve a term of up to 3 years, and may serve for 9 years total. BOD will have by-laws.
 2. **Agency Staff:** A Chief Executive Officer will be appointed by the Secretary of Cabinet to be employed by the Agency. The CEO can appoint employees, arrange for facilities, etc.
 3. **Agency Transparency:** The Agency will be required to report on its activities and effectiveness on March 31, 2029 and every subsequent 3 years. The Minister and the Agency will enter into an MOU that sets out requirements and expectations for the Agency, accountability relationships, and requirements for the Agency for carrying out its objects.
 4. **Agency Termination:** The Agency may be wound up by the Minister and appropriately dissolved.
 5. **Agency Directions:** The Agency can issue direction to Authorities to address: KPIs, service standards, information technology, procurement, training or members and employees, budgeting, AMPs and strategic plans. The Agency cannot issue a direction to an Authority until the Minister approves the direction. All Agency directions would be published on a website. To support implementation of such directions, the Agency may issue guidelines to the Authority(ies).
 6. **Agency Funding:** The Agency is funded by the Minister and through fees. The Agency can recover costs and expenses by determining the amounts the authorities collectively owe to the Agency and apportioning said costs.
 7. **Agency Liability:** No members of the Crown, Agency employee, or staff of an Authority can have cause or action arise against them for any act done in good faith further to their powers, duties, or functions under the CAA. No proceedings can be commenced against the Crown, Agency employee, or CA staff.
 - The proposal is available for comment on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) at posting #025-1257
 - Member Municipalities and members of the public are encouraged to make comments on the proposal as they see fit
 - Further updates and information will be forwarded as it becomes available
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