
To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett, General Manager
Date: May 26, 2026
File Number: BoD-26-05-40
Agenda #: 6.4
Subject: Provincial Updates on Conservation Authority Consolidation

Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information and appoints the General Manager Tracy Annett, and an elected member to the Transition Committee.

Background

On March 26, 2026, the province introduced Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act which includes Schedule 3 amending the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA). On April 23, 2026 the Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures) received Royal Assent. Since then, several steps have been taken to advance the transition of Conservation Authorities to the Regional Conservation Authorities including;

- 1) Issuing Minister's Direction (as attached)
- 2) Announcing the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency Board of Directors
- 3) Posting the Project Executive Positions
- 4) Initiating the Transition Process – Ernst & Young a third-party advisor to support development of a Playbook to guide the transition

A summary of these steps is provided below.

Minister's Direction

Schedule 3 of the Bill outlined several changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, including Part 1. Minister's Direction S.1.14 which, for the purposes of facilitating the transition to the new regional CA framework, can issue directions to the Authority.

On May 1, 2026 the Honourable Todd McCarthy Minister of the Environment Conservation and Parks released the attached direction to all CAs. The Minister's Direction applies to certain conservation authority decisions related to governance; organizational staffing changes; the acquisition and disposition of lands; significant capital transactions; and the provision or acquisition of goods or services. These measures are intended as temporary 'guardrails' to not interfere with regular day-to-day CA business and operations. The Minister's Direction is attached.

Starting on May 1, 2026, CAs are prohibited from making decisions as outlined in the table below unless the CA obtains written authorization from the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The prohibitions do not apply to a decision that was made by the Authority prior to May 1, 2026. Likewise, the prohibitions do not apply to a decision that is made to alleviate an immediate danger to human life or property

provided the CA notifies the OPCA CEO within 3 business days after the decision is made together with appropriate rationale.

CAs may request authorization from the CEO of the OPCA to make a decision, as outlined in the prohibition below. The request must include a description of the decision the authority is seeking, a CA resolution supporting the proposed decision, and an explanation of why the authorization should be granted including any risks to delaying the decision until after the transition date. The OPCA will endeavour to provide a written decision within 30 days of receiving the request. If the OPCA authorizes the request in whole or in part the CA retains the power to determine whether to proceed.

There is no process for reconsideration of an OPCA CEO decision; however, a CA can re-submit a request later if circumstances have changed. If a CA makes a decision that is not permitted under the temporary restrictions, the decision has no effect and any agreement the CA enters is void.

Topic	Temporary Prohibition
Governance	Amending By-Laws made under Section 19.1 of the CA Act is prohibited unless amendments do not affect the substance or legal effect such as administrative changes (updating dates, terminology, titles).
Human Resources	Terminating, filling a vacancy or making any changes to the terms and conditions of employment for any permanent or temporary senior leadership positions (i.e. general manager) or employees who serve in leadership positions related to mandatory programs and services. The number of employees cannot increase unless identified in the 2026 budget. No organizational changes, including creating, merging, or eliminating departments.
Land Acquisition/Disposition	Acquiring, by purchase, lease or otherwise, any land or to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any land owned by the authority
Procurement	Must not provide or acquire services where the agreement's duration exceeds 2 years OR a cost that exceeds the lessor of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's operating expenses as reported in the most recent audited financial statements. Does not include a decision to renew or extend an agreement in place prior to the Effective Date.
Capital Costs	Incurring or disposing of a capital cost (acquiring property, including materials, equipment and vehicles) where the lease exceeds 2 years in length or the total amount of the purchase exceeds the lessor of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets as reported in the most recent audited financial statements. Does not apply to purchases outlined in the 2026 budget.

Staff have reviewed the direction and determined that most of the current purchases and work are exempt as they are included in the approved 2026 budget and/or were approved before May 1, 2026. Authorizations are expected to be required prior to entering into land lease agreements and to implement our organizational review to

address retirements of senior staff positions. Staff will continue to review workplans and provide updates as required.

Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

The [Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency \(OPCA\)](#) is a newly created agency, overseen by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks that will provide centralized leadership, tools and resources to ensure a smooth transition from 36 conservation authorities to 9 regional conservation authorities.

In addition to overseeing the transition to the regional conservation authority framework the OPCA will:

- Oversee the governance of authorities and their operations, including the programs and services they provide.
- Promote consistent policies, standards and fees for programs and services provided by authorities.
- Assess and report on the effectiveness of authorities including outcomes related to the implementation of their programs and services.
- Oversee and evaluate the financial performance of authorities.
- Guide and evaluate the strategic planning by authorities to ensure it aligns with provincial objectives.
- Support the development and implementation of a standardized and centralized system for processing applications for permits issued by authorities.
- Lead the development and implementation of digital strategies and shared services to support the operations of authorities, including their programs and services.
- Support strategic investment in programs and services provided by authorities, including leveraging funding available to Ontario and authorities.
- 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.

Appointments to OPCA are advertised through the [Public Appointments Secretariate](#). To date, five appointments have been made to the OPCA Board:

1. David Wai/Deputy Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
2. Keith Palmer/Deputy Minister of Sport
3. Roda Muse/Deputy Minister (Bilingual) of Francophone Affairs & Commissioner of Public Service Commission
4. Maud Murray/Deputy Minister of Red Tape Reduction & Commissioner of Public Service Commission
5. Matthew Pegg/Deputy Minister, Emergency Preparedness and Response

This inaugural Board will now appoint a Project Executive to each regional CAs' transition committee. The Project Executive will chair the Transition Committee which is charged with developing a transition plan.

Project Executives

The posting for the Project Executive position was shared with Conservation Authorities on Friday May 15th. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Municipal

Administrators Association, and Canada Municipal Jobs are among those advertising the position.

The Project Executives will play a key leadership role in the transition by overseeing transition activities and chairing transition committees. Upon consolidation, they will serve as the inaugural Chief Administrative Officers of the regional conservation authorities for a period of up to two years, helping to ensure strong and experienced leadership. The posting will remain open until May 25, 2026.

Ernst and Young (EY)

On May 11 and 12 MECP arranged two identical sessions to introduce conservation authorities to representatives from Ernst Young LLP (EY). This firm has been contracted by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to guide the transition planning activities and work with CAs to collect data that will inform the transition process. By June 13, 2026, CAs will be required to provide data on six key areas:

Key Area Provided	Example
Governance and Organizational Structure	Organization charts, procurement policies, board and CAO roles, meeting minutes, job descriptions
Financial Performance and Procedures	Multi-year audited financial statements, list of liabilities, summary of active litigations
Workforce and Human Resources	Number of FT and FTEs, departures and hiring between (2023-2025), plans for future hiring, HR policies, employee performance review, training materials
Operational Processes	List of programs and partnerships, KPEs, service level agreements
Systems and Supporting Technology	Overview of existing systems and supporting technology, contracts with IT vendors, plans for technology investments/improvements
Technology Controls	IT access and security documents (How is IT security overseen/managed)

In addition, EY will be holding an interview with each CA to clarify any questions regarding the data collection process and gather additional context that may inform the transition plan. The objective of the data collection is not to have the CAs create new materials or evaluate or audit each CA. Information provided will inform the consolidation plan including sequencing, readiness and the identification of additional support. Each CA will receive a snapshot of their individual organization at the end of the process.

EY will also be using the information to develop a consolidation ‘Playbook’ that will be used by each Transition Committee to develop their respective transition plan. The timeline for the data request is outlined in the graphic below.

Key Steps to Developing the RCA Playbook

◆ Key points of engagement with CAs

Throughout the process, CAs will participate in stakeholder interviews, complete their data collection templates and submit the data collection template along with all required supporting documents via EY's SharePoint.

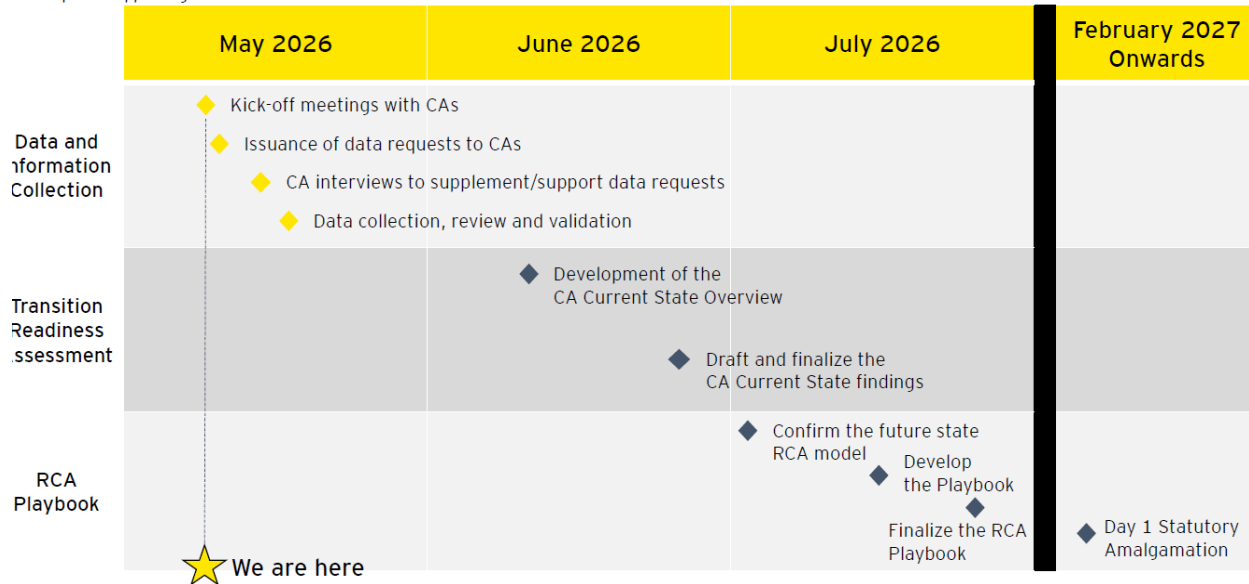


Figure 1. Steps to Developing the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) Playbook

Transition plans must be developed by the Transition Committees and submitted to the OPCA to consider revisions. Once no revisions are necessary, the Transition Committee will provide a copy to the new authority and a summary to participating municipalities and the predecessor authorities. If the Committee fails to produce a transition plan, the OPCA will.

The final transition plan will be implemented by the new Regional Conservation Authority, who may request revisions to the OPCA. The new Authority will report to the OPCA on the progress of transition implementation.

Transition Committees

The Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit has requested that predecessor CAs appoint representatives to their respective Transition Committees by **June 30, 2026**, as outlined in the attached email. Appointments must be the CAO/GM of the predecessor authority or another senior officer and a municipally appointed member of the predecessor authority's Board of Directors.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors appoint Tracy Annett, General Manager, to the Transition Committee and, through discussion during the May Board of Directors meeting, identifies who they wish to appoint as a representative to the Transition Committee.

If the predecessor CAs fail to make appointments, the OPCA will do so on their behalf.

Summary

The Province previously shared the key steps in the consolidation process as provided in Figure 2 below.

Key Steps in Process

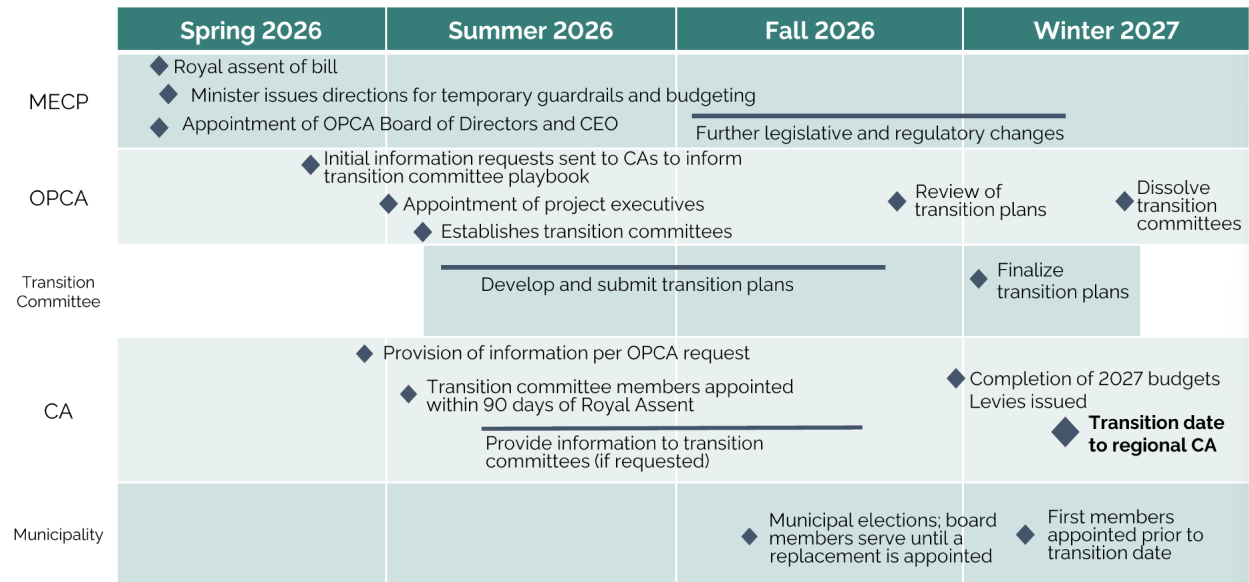


Figure 2: Key Steps in the Process

Staff have and are continuing to spend significant time on preparing for the transition of the UTRCA into the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority (along with the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority). CAO/GMs of the four authorities have been regularly meeting, and senior staff of the major departments will be meeting to ensure a full understanding of services being offered by each CA.

A presentation of the above will be provided at the meeting. This will allow the board to discuss the issues that may be present and appoint an elected member to the Transition Committee.

Recommended by:

Tracy Annett, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Attachments:

- Minister’s Direction, dated May 1, 2026 provided by the Honourable Todd McCarthy Minister of the Environment Conservation and Parks.
- Email from the Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit RE: Transition Committees - Appointed Members

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs



Office of the Minister

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357-2026-1281

May 1, 2026

TO: Conservation Authorities Chairs, GMs/CAOs, and municipalities

SUBJECT: Minister's direction under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
(re: temporary restrictions)

I am writing with regards to the transition of Ontario's conservation authority system to a consolidated regional model. The *Plan to Protect Ontario Act* (Budget Measures), 2026 received Royal Assent on April 24, 2026 and pursuant to my authority under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), I am issuing a direction to conservation authorities – please see attached to this letter as Attachment A (the "Direction").

The intention of this Direction, which is effective from May 1, 2026 to the transition date under the CAA (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations), is to apply temporary restrictions on significant financial, asset or employment decisions to mitigate risk and ensure a stable transition to the new regional structure.

This Direction applies to certain conservation authority decisions related to: governance, organizational or staffing changes; the acquisition and disposition of lands; significant capital transactions; and the provision or acquisition of goods or services. For the decisions specified in this Direction, conservation authorities will be required to seek authorization from the chief executive officer of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (or the Chief Conservation Executive of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks if the chief executive officer has not yet been appointed), before the authority can make the decision. This Direction applies to all current conservation authorities, as listed in Appendix A to the attachment. Further guidance on the process to obtain authorization is set out in Appendix B to the attachment. The CAA provides that if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

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These measures are not intended to interfere with the regular day-to-day business and operations of conservation authorities. If you are contemplating whether or not this Direction applies to a conservation authority decision under consideration, if you have any questions regarding this Direction, or if you are looking to request authorization for a conservation authority decision that may be covered under this Direction, please contact the Chief Conservation Executive at CCEO@ontario.ca and copy the Conservation Authorities Section at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Continuity for communities is a core principle of this transition. These time-limited measures are intended to ensure there aren't any service disruptions during transition and to ensure that the transition to consolidation is smooth and successful with minimal disruptions to conservation authorities' governance, programs and services. Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration as we work to improve the conservation authority system in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long, sweeping underline.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Enclosures

c: The Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Attachment A

Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (this "Direction")

Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act provides the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks with the authority to issue a direction to a conservation authority in relation to various matters for the purpose of facilitating the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities. The types of directions that can be issued by the Minister are set out in clauses 1.14 (1) (a) to (d):

- (a) prohibiting the authority from making a decision in relation to its exercise of any of its powers under this Act or any other Act in the circumstances specified in the direction and subject to any specified conditions;
- (b) requiring the authority to give notice, in accordance with the direction, of a decision that it has made;
- (c) requiring the authority to send notices under subsection 25 (2), 27 (3) or 27.2 (3) by the date specified in the direction;
- (d) governing budgetary and apportionment matters relating to the authority that are otherwise addressed in a regulation made under clause 40 (1) (c), (e) or (f) or clause 40 (3) (k).

Section 1.14 further provides that an authority that receives such a direction shall comply with the direction within the time specified in the direction.

If an authority makes decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under clauses 1.14 (1) (a) and (b), the conservation authorities set out under Appendix "A" to this Direction (the "**authorities**" or each, an "**authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

Decisions prohibited unless authorization obtained (direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a))

1. Commencing on the Effective Date and until the transition date, an authority is prohibited from making a decision to do any of the following unless the authority obtains written authorization from the chief executive officer of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency ("OPCA CEO") in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 4:

- i. Amending an authority's by-laws made under section 19.1 of the CAA, unless the amendment is administrative in nature and does not affect the substance or legal effect of the by-law (e.g. updating references, dates, and terminology; name or title changes; and making obvious corrections where the intended meaning is clear).
- ii. Any of the following related to employment:
 - a. Terminating the employment of a permanent or temporary employee who serves in a senior leadership position, including the authority's chief administrative officer or general manager, its secretary treasurer, and any departmental directors if applicable.
 - b. Filling a vacancy for (i.e. temporarily or permanently) or making any changes to the terms and conditions of employment for any senior leadership position as referred to in sub-subparagraph a.
 - c. Terminating the employment of any employee who serves in a leadership position related to or who are essential to the provision of the following mandatory programs and services described in the following provisions of O. Reg. 686/21 made under the CAA: flood forecasting and warning (section 2), ice management (section 4), infrastructure (section 5), plan reviews (sections 6 and 7) and the administration and enforcement of Parts VI and VII of the CAA (section 8).
 - d. Increasing the total number of employees of the authority unless the increase was already included in the authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year.
- iii. Changing the organizational structure of the employees of the authority, including creating, merging, or eliminating departments.
- iv. Acquiring, by purchase, lease or otherwise, any land or to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any land owned by the authority.
- v. Acquiring services from a person or body where:
 - a. the duration of the provision of the service exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total cost of the service exceeds the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's operating expenses, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This does not include a decision to renew or extend an agreement for a service that a person or body was providing to the authority prior to the Effective Date.

- vi. Providing a service to a person or body where:
 - a. the duration of the provision of the service exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total amount to be charged for the service exceeds the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's revenues, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This does not include a decision to, renew or extend an agreement for a service that the authority was providing to the person or body prior to the Effective Date.

- vii. Incurring a capital cost in connection with a project or purchasing, leasing or otherwise acquiring personal property, including materials, equipment and vehicles, where:
 - a. in the case of a lease, the duration of the term of the lease exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total amount of the capital cost or purchase, lease or other acquisition would exceed the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This direction does not apply if the capital cost or acquisition is contemplated for a particular program or service identified in the authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year and the total capital cost or acquisition amount is within the budgeted amount for the program or service.

- viii. Selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of or dealing with personal property, including materials, equipment and vehicles, where:
 - a. in the case of the lease, the duration of the term of the lease exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total amount of the lease or other disposition or dealing would exceed the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

- 2. Despite paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs 1. v to viii do not apply to a decision of an authority that is made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, the health of any persons, or to property.

3. For greater certainty, paragraph 1 does not apply to a decision of an authority to execute an agreement that has the effect of implementing a decision made by the authority before the Effective Date.
4. The following conditions must be satisfied before an authority is authorized to make a decision that is subject to paragraph 1:
 - i. The authority must request authorization from the OPCA CEO to make the decision, in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Direction.
 - ii. The authority must receive written authorization from the OPCA CEO to make the decision. If authorization for the request is granted only in part, the authority must ensure that its decision does not exceed the scope of the authorization.
5. For the purposes of paragraph 4, the authority must request authorization to make a decision that is subject to paragraph 1 by submitting the following information to the OPCA CEO:
 - i. A description of the decision that the authority is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is a decision that is subject to paragraph 1.
 - ii. A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
 - iii. An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
 - iv. Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.
6. The authority must provide any additional information about the request to the OPCA CEO at the OPCA CEO's request.

**Notice of a decision that an authority has made to address an emergency
(direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (b))**

7. Commencing on the Effective Date and until the transition date, where the authority makes a decision that is not subject to paragraph 1 by reason that the decision is made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the authority must give notice to OPCA CEO within 3 business days after making the decision.
8. The notice mentioned in paragraph 7 must describe the decision that was made and explain how the decision that was made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, the health of any persons, or to property.

General

9. In this Direction, a reference to the OPCA CEO means the Chief Conservation Executive of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if a chief executive officer of OPCA has not yet been appointed.
10. In this Direction, a reference to an authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year means the authority's final budget for the 2026 calendar year that was approved prior to the Effective Date. For greater certainty, if an authority has not yet approved its final budget for the 2026 calendar year prior to the Effective Date, the authority does not have an approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year for the purposes of this Direction.
11. The authority must ensure that any employee of the authority who is responsible for or involved in making a decision that is subject to this Direction is made aware of this Direction, and the authority must require these employees to take all steps necessary to ensure the authority complies with this Direction.
12. This Direction applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction.
13. For greater certainty, this Direction also applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction when such conservation authorities are meeting as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.
14. This Direction is effective from May 1, 2026 (the "**Effective Date**") to the transition date, within the meaning of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations).
15. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.



Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
May 1, 2026

Appendix A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA	Lower Trent Region CA
Cataraqui Region CA	Maitland Valley CA
Catfish Creek CA	Mattagami Region CA
Central Lake Ontario CA	Mississippi Valley CA
Credit Valley CA	Niagara Peninsula CA
Crowe Valley CA	Nickel District CA
Essex Region CA	North Bay-Mattawa CA
Ganaraska Region CA	Nottawasaga Valley CA
Grand River CA	Otonabee Region CA
Grey Sauble CA	Quinte Region CA
Halton Region CA	Raisin Region CA
Hamilton Region CA	Rideau Valley CA
Kawartha Region CA	Saugeen Valley CA
Kettle Creek CA	Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
Lake Simcoe Region CA	South Nation River CA
Lakehead Region CA	St. Clair Region CA
Long Point Region CA	Toronto and Region CA
Lower Thames Valley CA	Upper Thames River CA

Appendix B

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR THE MINISTER'S DIRECTION ISSUED UNDER SECTION 1.14 OF THE CAA

The following sets out additional information and guidance for authorities in relation to the Minister's Direction issued May 1, 2026 under s. 1.14 of the CAA.

The ministry strongly encourages conservation authorities to contact the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) at CCEO@ontario.ca if an authority is uncertain about the scope, application or requirements of this direction. OPCA can help clarify whether a proposed decision is subject to this Direction and how the authority can ensure it complies with this Direction.

As paragraph 11 of the Direction provides, if any decisions covered by the Direction are made by employees of the authority, the authority has the obligation to ensure that their employees are aware of this Direction and that the authority seeks prior authorization in accordance with the Direction before the decision is made.

The CAA provides that, if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Request and OPCA CEO Decision Process

Making a Request

After a conservation authority determines that a proposed decision requires authorization from the OPCA CEO, the authority may make a request for authorization via email to CCEO@ontario.ca containing the following required information:

- A description of the decision that the authority is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is a decision that is subject to paragraph 1 of the Direction.
- A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
- An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
- Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.

Any notices of decisions required to be given to OPCA CEO under paragraph 7 of the Direction should also be sent via email to CCEO@ontario.ca.

Confirmation of Receipt

Once the OPCA (or Office of the Chief Conservation Executive (OCCE) if the OPCA CEO has not yet been appointed), receives a request from the authority that includes the required information, the authority will be notified by OPCA that the request has been received and the timeline for a decision. The OPCA will also inform the Ministry's Conservation Authorities Section (CAS) (via ca.office@ontario.ca) that a request for written authorization has been received. In addition, if the authority provides notice under paragraph 7 of the Direction of a decision made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the OPCA will inform the CAS.

If, upon review by the OPCA CEO, it is determined that a decision is not subject to the requirement for prior written authorization, the authority will be notified as soon as possible that the decision is not subject to this Direction.

Consideration of Request

The OPCA CEO will endeavour to make a decision on the request in a timely manner and not more than 30 calendar days from the day of receiving the request that is accompanied with the required information. Where the complexity of the request or the need for additional information necessitates, written notice will be provided to the authority by the OPCA of any additional time needed to issue a decision.

The OPCA CEO may consult on an authority's request with the relevant transition committee and project executive that has been appointed by OPCA for that authority. . The OPCA CEO may also require the authority to provide additional information if needed to support their consideration of the request.

Decision

The OPCA CEO may make the following types of decisions on a request for written authorization:

- Grant authorization to the authority to proceed with making the decision that was the subject of the request, in whole or in part (i.e., authorize the authority to proceed in a more limited manner than what was requested).
- Deny authorization, including in circumstances where, in the opinion of the OPCA CEO, the decision would not be in the best interest of the future regional conservation authority, or it would be more appropriate to defer the decision to the future regional conservation authority.

The decision of the OPCA CEO on the request will be given in writing to the authority and will include a rationale for the decision if the decision is to deny authorization or only grant authorization in part. The Ministry's CAS will also be notified of the OPCA CEO's decision.

Where an authority's proposed decision is authorized by the OPCA CEO, or where the proposed decision has been authorized but only in part, this in no way compels the authority to proceed with the decision. In all cases, the authority retains the sole power to determine whether to proceed with any decision that has been authorized by the OPCA CEO.

Reconsideration

There is no process for reconsideration of an OPCA CEO decision on a request for authorization under the Direction.

An authority whose request for authorization is denied or granted only in part may request authorization again in accordance with the Direction at a later date if the circumstances have changed and the authority believes that these changes in circumstances would support the granting of authorization.

Transition Committees - Appointed Members

From CCEO (MECP) <CCEO@ontario.ca>

Date Mon 2026-05-11 4:36 PM

To CCEO (MECP) <CCEO@ontario.ca>



External (cceo@ontario.ca)



[Graymail](#) [Spam](#) [Phish](#) [More...](#) [FAQ](#) [Protection by INKY](#)

You don't often get email from cceo@ontario.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

With the passage of Bill 97, *A Plan to Protect Ontario*, transition work is now underway to support the regional consolidation of conservation authorities.

As part of this work, transition committees are being established to help guide and inform transition activities, including the development of transition plans. We anticipate transition committees to be launched in mid-July.

Each transition committee will be led by a dedicated project executive, who will also provide continuity by serving as the first Chief Administrative Officer of the new regional conservation authority for up to two years.

The work of these committees will be grounded in local priorities and insights. Accordingly, committee membership will draw from each existing conservation authority being consolidated and will include:

- the current CAO or General Manager, and
- one board member.

Thank you to those of you who have already advised us of your appointed members—we appreciate your leadership and participation. For those who have not yet done so, please submit the names of your two appointed members to the CCEO at this email address by **June 30, 2026**.

We recognize that a board resolution is required to make these appointments. If your board meeting schedule necessitates an extension beyond June 30th, please contact the CCEO to discuss.

Thank you again for your continued partnership as we begin this important transition toward regional conservation authorities.

Hassaan Basit
Chief Conservation Executive