

MM26.8 Opposition to the Government of Ontario's changes to Conservation Authorities - City Council consideration on November 25, 2020 – Submission ProtectNatureTO

Nov 25, 2020

VIA E-MAIL: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

RE: MM26.8 Opposition to the Government of Ontario's changes to Conservation Authorities - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher City Council consideration on November 25, 2020

Dear Mayor Tory and Council Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to express ProtectNatureTO full support for the motion by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher - MM26.8 Opposition to the Government of Ontario's changes to Conservation Authorities.

We are noticing with grave concerns changes to the environmental protections in Ontario, such as the most recent attack on the Conservation Authorities in Bill 229, Schedule 6.

Only recently, ProtectNatureTO, together with another almost 100 organizations, supported Ontario Nature letter RE Issuance of Minister's Zoning Orders Minister Clark Nov 16 2020.

These multiple reversals of the environmental policies, safeguarding our environment for many years, are threatening the very core and fabric of environmental protections framework built over 40 years.

Dismantling Conservation Authorities would be one of the last acts along this regressive path greatly undermining the environment and our future.

Sincerely,

Lenka Holubec on behalf of [ProtectNatureTO](https://www.protectnatureto.ca)

Background:

- Ontario Nature letter RE Issuance of Minister's Zoning Orders Minister Clark Nov 16 2020
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uojGVWNfcZro52x3VoVvd7wNFs_bYFUu?usp=sharing

-[MEDIA RELEASE: Province Tying Conservation Authorities Up in Red Tape – Repeal Schedule 6](#)
NEWMARKET (November 18, 2020)–**Conservation Ontario (CO)** recommends the Province repeal (remove) Schedule 6 which amends the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act because the changes being proposed will create more red tape and higher costs for Ontario taxpayers as well as threaten the independent watershed-based approach used by conservation authorities (CAs) in land use planning.

-[CBC News \(Nov 19, 2020\) Conservation authority says Ontario's COVID-19 budget bill would 'negate' its fundamental role](#)

The head of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) says Ontario's proposed overhaul of conservation authorities would weaken environmental protections and put more power into the hands of private developers, while negating its fundamental role.

- ['In danger': Mayors in Oakville and Burlington along with Milton and Halton Hills say Ontario government trying to 'gut' conservation authorities November 23, 2020](#)