



Motion to IEC

Thursday, November 27, 2025

Opposition to the Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities

Summary:

The *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) established Conservation Authorities as local, watershed-based bodies to manage natural resources, flooding and development in partnership with municipalities. Their jurisdiction and responsibilities were broadened after the devastation of Hurricane Hazel, and are even more critical now that climate breakdown is worsening the severity of erosion, flooding and storms.

Conservation Authorities are governed by Boards of Directors comprised of municipally elected officials or appointees, ensuring direct accountability to local taxpayers and residents, and responsiveness to local priorities.

This funding model relies heavily on municipal levies and self-generated revenue, with the Province of Ontario contributing approximately 5% or less to operating budgets.

The Toronto Region Conservation Authority has deservedly earned international recognition for its exceptional, highly skilled, outstanding work protecting Toronto's residents, floodplains and natural areas. Part of that essential work is to refuse to permit real estate development on hazard lands where it does not belong.

The current provincial government has repeatedly interfered with this essential work of conservation authorities. It has now introduced **Schedule 3 of Bill 68** (and Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 025-1257), to eviscerate municipal watershed-based control of development in hazard lands by amalgamating Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven (7) centralized regional entities governed by a new "Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency". This forced amalgamation and subordination will dilute local decision-making, sever the critical link between local funding and local service delivery, imperil the essential work of the TRCA and ignore the unique hydrological and environmental differences between distinct watersheds.

Recommendation:

1. City Council advise the government of Ontario that it strongly opposes the proposed forced amalgamation of Conservation Authorities as outlined in ERO 025-1257.
2. City Council calls upon the government of Ontario to:
 - a. Pause implementation of Bill 68, Schedule 3;

- b. Maintain the current watershed-based governance model that ensures local accountability; and
 - c. Engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities to address any specific provincial concerns regarding efficiency without dismantling local governance and environmental protection.
- 3. City Council directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Toronto MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the TRCA.