



December 5, 2025

Re: Bill 68 Schedule 3 and LPRCA Board Resolution Re: ERO No. 025-1257

On October 31, 2025, the Province of Ontario announced Bill 68: *Plan to Protect Ontario Act* including Schedule 3 amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. On November 6, 2025, [Bill 68](#), was introduced and on November 25, 2025, Bill 68 was passed establishing the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for authorities in Ontario. The new agency is expected to provide leadership, governance, strategic direction and oversight of all conservation authorities (CAs) in Ontario. The announcement was made without prior consultation with CAs, municipal partners or staff who possess decades of local knowledge.

On November 7, 2025 the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) No. 025-1257 consultation on the proposed consolidation, boundaries, governance, and budgeting was posted suggesting 36 CAs be consolidated into 7 regional CAs. It is proposed that the Long Point Region Conservation Authority will amalgamate with 7 other CAs forming the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority (LERCA), encompassing 81 municipalities which dilutes local representation. This stands in contrast to LPRCA's current governance model, which ensures strong local representation and accountability to its participating municipalities. No evidence-based analysis has been provided by the province to justify the transition to these large regional entities. This leaves many key questions unanswered such as what the funding model is for the OPCA, the governance model for the new proposed regional CAs and whether Long Point Region's municipalities will have fair local representation.

In the ERO, the Ontario Government has stated that the current system of 36 separate conservation authorities is fragmented with each CA following different standards, fees and levels of staffing and technical capabilities which has led to unpredictable and inconsistent turnaround times for approvals creating uncertainty and delays for builders, landowners and farmers seeking permits. With the OPCA guidance and support, meaningful modernization and a digital e-permitting platform can occur in the current 36 conservation authorities without the need for consolidation.

The LPRCA Board of Directors acknowledges and supports the Province's goals of improved efficiency, consistency and fiscal responsibility in conservation delivery; however, the LPRCA Board of Directors does not support the proposed "Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration outlined in the ERO No. 025-1257. The LPRCA Board of Directors requests the Ministry further evaluate the proposed boundaries and to engage directly with affected municipalities and CAs to establish a reduced geographic scope.

The Board of Directors discussed Bill 68 Schedule 3 which established the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority at its December 3, 2025 meeting and passed the attached motion.

The LPRCA Board of Directors encourages our member municipalities and partners to carefully evaluate the province's proposal and provide comments through the [ERO No. 025-1257 Proposed boundaries for regional consolidations of Ontario's Conservation Authorities](#) by the closing date December 22, 2025.

Local community-based watershed management needs to stay in the hands of local municipalities.

Sincerely,

Dave Beres

Dave Beres
Chair, Long Point Region Conservation Authority

Attached: LPRCA Board Resolution ERO No. 025-1257

LPRCA Board Resolution ERO No. 025-1257

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 (“Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities”), proposing to reduce Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities to seven regional Conservation Authorities under the oversight and direction of the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and the updated *Conservation Authorities Act*; and

WHEREAS under this proposal, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) would be merged into a new “Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority” together with the: Essex Region CA, Lower Thames Valley CA, St. Clair Region CA, Upper Thames River CA, Kettle Creek CA, Catfish Creek CA, and Grand River CA, forming a single organization stretching from Windsor, through London, Brantford and north of Waterloo region; and

WHEREAS the Board acknowledges and supports the Province’s goals of improved efficiency, consistency and fiscal responsibility in conservation delivery, but find that the proposed “Lake Erie Region CA” configuration would create a geographically vast and administratively complex entity, joining municipalities throughout the province with little watershed connection; dilute local accountability and municipal partnership; generate substantial transition costs, including human resources integration, governance restructuring, IT migration and policy harmonization that would divert resources from the front-line service delivery making it hard for applicants to obtain local advice, resolve issues or expedite housing and infrastructure approvals that support the Province’s agenda; and

WHEREAS LPRCA works with its member municipalities, the Province and partners to be fiscally responsible while ensuring the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources within the Long Point Region watershed including limiting levy increase to municipalities while modernizing its programs and services and aligning them with provincial guidance and neighboring CAs and will continue to do so. Meaningful modernization can occur with the current watershed-based governance framework; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT LPRCA Board of Directors does not support the proposed “Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in the Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257; and the Board instead requests that the Ministry further evaluate the proposed boundaries and to engage directly with affected municipalities and Conservation Authorities to establish a reduced geographic scope for consolidation that better reflects established relationships and enhances cost-efficient delivery of integrated watershed management, grassroots connections and local understanding; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office), local members of Provincial Parliament, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Rural Ontario Municipalities Association, all municipalities and CAs within the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority, Ontario’s Chief Conservation Executive and Conservation Ontario.