



The Corporation of the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley

310 Port Elmsley Road • Perth • Ontario • K7H 3C7

December 12th, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Scott Reid, MP
John Jordan, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
All Municipalities in Ontario

Re: Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities & New Provincial Conservation Agency

At its Council meeting on December 9th, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley adopted the following motion:

Resolution Number 25-122

WHEREAS, the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy;

AND WHEREAS, local municipalities established the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in 1966 and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in 1968, and currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides less than 5%;

AND WHEREAS, municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable services standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS, Bill 68 (Schedule 3) and ERO posting 025-1257 proposes to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities and create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown agency that would assume oversight over conservation authorities and have the ability to levy authorities to cover its costs;



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AND WHEREAS, the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, standards and policies across all conservation authorities through the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT, while the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT, the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity and program delivery across the province, and requests that the province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives;

AND FURTHER THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, to the local MP(s) and MPP(s), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the local conservation authority(s), and all municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Sincerely,

Janie Laidlaw,
Clerk