



Town of The Blue Mountains

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December 5, 2025

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

RE: Town of The Blue Mountains Opposition to Bill 68 and the Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Honourable Minister McCarthy,

The Town of The Blue Mountains Council would like to express our concerns regarding Bill 68 and the proposed consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional authorities. As a community with a strong and long-standing partnership with our local conservation authorities, we believe the proposed regional restructuring does not align with the best interests of our residents or the unique environmental needs of our community.

As a Council, we support provincial efforts to enhance efficiency through standardized fee schedules, policies, guidelines and online permitting systems. However, we believe that these improvements can be achieved without compromising the local expertise, responsiveness and accountability that watershed-based authorities currently provide.

The proposed consolidation raises significant concerns for The Blue Mountains Council regarding the loss of local expertise and the reduction of accessible, timely support for residents, builders and developers. Local conservation authorities possess a deep knowledge of watershed conditions, natural hazards and community priorities that cannot be effectively replicated at a broader regional scale. Centralizing the functions of local conservation authorities risks diluting the community-driven programming and tailored services that protect natural resources and support sustainable development in The Blue Mountains, while also diminishing meaningful municipal representation in decision-making. We are further concerned that a top-down

structure may introduce unnecessary transition costs, red tape and additional layers of bureaucracy, which hinder efficiency, rather than improve it.

Given these concerns, we urge you to reconsider the implications of the proposed amalgamation and to directly engage with municipalities and conservation authorities before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments. We respectfully request that the province consider alternative approaches that maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities while supporting shared objectives of modernization and efficiency improvements. We believe that strengthening and supporting existing structures, rather than replacing them, will help to preserve local expertise, ensure consistent service delivery, and uphold the principles of community-focused governance.

Thank you for considering the perspective of the Town of The Blue Mountains. We look forward to your response and hopeful reconsideration of this proposal.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Matrosovs', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Andrea Matrosovs
Town of The Blue Mountains