



November 24, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Schedule 6: Bill 229- Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

I am writing to you on behalf of the Members of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. The Members reviewed the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act outlined in Schedule 6 of Bill 229. MVCA is concerned that the proposed changes will have unintended consequences with respect to the streamlining of development approvals and appeals. These consequences have been outlined in detail in the letter submitted by Wayne Emmerson, Chair of Conservation Ontario, dated November 13, 2020.

Conservation Ontario has identified a number of concerns with the proposed changes that would hinder the ability of Conservation Authorities to undertake the watershed management work that we were established to undertake.

The Conservation Authorities Act was passed by the Province in 1946. Much has been accomplished over the ensuing years; however it is time to renew that partnership for the betterment of the people of Ontario. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks undertook broad consultations on the role of Conservation Authorities in 2019. The results of the consultation were not released. The proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act were developed without any input or discussion with Conservation Authorities prior to them being included in Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229).

We respectfully request that the Provincial Government undertake the following:

1. Remove Schedule 6 from the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229). This schedule has nothing to do with the proposed budget bill.
2. Work with Conservation Authorities to identify effective solutions for streamlining development review and approval. We are all working for the public good. Both Conservation Authorities and the Provincial Government want to ensure that all future development is located in areas that are safe from the risks associated with natural hazards and that protect the natural environment.

3. Maintain our current Conservation Authority - municipal relationships. Municipalities should continue to have the flexibility to appoint either a member of council or a citizen from the municipality to a Conservation Authority.
4. Maintain the current governance responsibilities. Members should continue to act in the best interests of the Conservation Authority at all times. This is a fundamental principle of responsible governance in both private and public sector bodies. It should be maintained.
5. Renegotiate the Province's long standing partnership with Conservation Authorities and work with them to identify the tools and resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management responsibilities.

Now more than ever, we need all levels of government working collaboratively to help the people of this Province recover from this pandemic and develop a healthy, resilient, and prosperous Ontario.

Respectfully submitted;



Dave Turton
Chair

cc

Honourable Rod Phillips

Minister of Finance

Honourable Jeff Yurek

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Honourable John Yakabuski

Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

Honourable Steve Clark

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