



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Date: April 8, 2026

If a member of Council wishes to bring forward any of these items for discussion at a future meeting, please make your request at the next Council meeting.

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None.	

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None.

7. Petition(s)

None.

Memo

To: Members of Council

From: Legal Department & Municipal Enforcement Services

CC: Jane Clohecy, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Mizzi, Commissioner of Community Development
Sheryl Ayres, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Paul Damaso, Commissioner of Community Services
Phoebe Fu, Commissioner of Community Infrastructure
Julie Clarke, Director of Corporate Strategy and Government Relations

Date: April 8, 2026

Subject: Safe Access to Places of Worship By-law Update

Background

On December 16, 2024, following receipt of the [Roles and Responsibilities in Managing Protests staff report](#) at the [December 16, 2024 Council Meeting](#), Town Council directed staff to engage in virtual public consultation and to research and investigate a draft by-law to address certain forms of protests within a reasonable distance of vulnerable community infrastructure.

In responding to Council's direction, on May 1, 2025, staff brought forward a report for Council to receive: [Potential Protest By-law near Vulnerable Social Infrastructure staff report and appendices](#). Due to public disruption at the Council meeting, the meeting was adjourned and reconvened at the [May 12, 2025, Council meeting](#), where Council approved the following:

1. That the revised draft By-law 2025-088, be passed, which includes the following amendments:
 - a. The by-law shall apply only to places of worship as well as premises used on a temporary basis to host religious ceremonies or services;

- b. The by-law shall apply only during the times that such ceremonies or services are actively taking place, including a reasonable period immediately before and after;
 - c. The by-law shall apply to all municipal properties, or parts thereof, within fifty (50) metres from the boundaries of the properties in paragraph a.
2. That the revised draft By-law 2025-089, by-law to amend Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Violations and Orders By-law 2021-038, be passed.
3. That consideration of the by-law's application to any other forms of vulnerable social infrastructure (such as healthcare, social services, or educational institutions) shall be deferred for a period of one year, to allow time for the federal government to act on its commitment made during the 2025 federal election as announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney to introduce protective legislation.
4. That staff be directed to monitor federal developments and return to Council with a report and recommendations no later than June 1, 2026 regarding the potential future expansion of the by-law's application to other vulnerable social infrastructure.
5. That Council requests the Attorney-Generals of Ontario and Canada introduce legislation to make it an offence to intentionally and willfully obstruct access to any place of worship, school, and other vulnerable social infrastructure, and an offence to willfully intimidate or threaten those attending services at these locations, while allowing peaceful protests or demonstrations.
6. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Minister of the Attorney General for Ontario, the Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament for Oakville, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to express the Town of Oakville's support for federal action to protect places of worship and other community spaces from targeted protest and hate-motivated disruption.

Comments

In response to item 4 of the Council direction noted above, staff can advise that the federal government introduced Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate*

propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places), on September 19, 2025, known as the *Combatting Hate Act*.¹

Bill C-9 would amend the *Criminal Code* to among other things,

- create an offence of wilfully promoting hatred against any identifiable group by displaying certain symbols in a public place
- repeal the defence based on the expression of opinions on religious subjects or texts in relation to the offences of wilful promotion of hatred or antisemitism
- create a hate crime offence of committing an offence under that Act or any other Act of Parliament that is motivated by hatred based on certain factors
- create an offence of engaging in any conduct with the intent to provoke a state of fear in a person in order to impede their access to places that are primarily used:
 - for religious worship, or
 - by an identifiable group
 - for administrative, social, cultural or sports activities or events,
 - as an educational institution, including a daycare, or
 - as a residence for seniors
- create an offence of intentionally obstructing or interfering with a person's lawful access to such places.

The Bill was passed by the House of Commons on March 25, 2026 and is currently proceeding to the Senate. Civil liberties groups including the Canadian Civil Liberties Association have raised concerns about the Bill, arguing it could criminalize peaceful protest and silence unpopular expression. The Minister of Justice examined Bill C-9 for any inconsistency with the Charter pursuant to their obligation under section 4.1 of the *Department of Justice Act*.²

In June 2025, the City of Vaughan received a Notice of Application by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association seeking to quash Vaughan's By-law prohibiting nuisance demonstrations within one hundred metres of vulnerable social infrastructure for illegality, pursuant to s. 273(1) of the *Municipal Act*.³ A hearing date has not yet been set for this application.

¹ [Government Bill \(House of Commons\) C-9 \(45-1\) - Third Reading - Combatting Hate Act - Parliament of Canada](#)

² [Bill C-9: An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places\)](#)

³ [NOTICE OF APPLICATION - 23-JUNE-2025 0DU3JAJT.pdf](#)

Staff will continue to monitor these matters and report back to Council in 2027 regarding the potential future expansion of the Town’s “Safe Access to Places of Worship By-law” to other vulnerable social infrastructure.

[EXTERNAL] AMO Policy Update – Regional Governance Changes, Finalized Buy Ontario Directive, AMO Briefing on Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build, OEB Consultations on Natural Gas Franchise Agreements, Northlander Rideshare Pilot, Wildland Fire Management

From AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 5:41 PM

To Town Clerks <TownClerk@oakville.ca>



AMO Policy Update – Regional Governance Changes, Finalized Buy Ontario Directive, AMO Briefing on Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build, OEB Consultations on Natural Gas Franchise Agreements, Northlander Rideshare Pilot, Wildland Fire Management

Top Insights
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The province introduces legislation to appoint chairs for 5 regional governments and the Warden of Simcoe County along with strong chair powers, reduce the size of Simcoe and Niagara councils, and require other regions to review their council composition following the 2026 election
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The province releases final Buy Ontario procurement rules for municipalities that reflect AMO’s recommendations to provide clear guidance and flexibility to meet local priorities. Supply Ontario is providing guidance and training to support local rollout
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AMO is hosting a CAO townhall on April 9th to provide insights on the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build’s development charge deferral initiative

Top Insights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ontario Energy Board has launched a review of the Model Natural Gas Franchise Agreement and is inviting municipalities to participate with a deadline to register as an intervenor by April 20th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province is consulting on a pilot that would upload rideshare regulation and oversight to the province along the Northlander Passenger Train corridor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province announces enhancements to wildland fire management and safety introduces a new regulatory framework for administrative monetary penalties

Province Introduces *Better Regional Governance Act*

Today, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing [introduced the *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026*](#) which proposes to changes to the governance structure of Durham, Halton, Muskoka, Niagara, Peel, Simcoe, Waterloo, and York including:

- Allowing the Minister to appoint upper-tier council and heads of council with strong chair powers that mirror strong mayor powers
- Reduce Simcoe County Council from 32 to 17 members, and Niagara Regional Council from 32 to 13 members with both councils composed of the mayors of each lower-tier municipality plus the appointed head of council
- Require all regional governments except Niagara to review their council composition following the 2026 municipal election
- Develop a weighted voting framework for Niagara Regional Council

AMO will review the legislation and continues to encourage the province to ensure that clarity on governance structures is in place before the opening of nominations for the 2026 municipal elections.

Province Issues Municipal *Buy Ontario Act* Directives and Guidance

The Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement has released its finalized Buy Ontario directive for the municipal sector [on a new Buy Ontario website](#). The directive applies to light duty fleet vehicles, and capital infrastructure procurement. It addresses many of the issues raised by [AMO during consultations](#) including:

- Clear definitions of what is included under the directive and how municipalities can apply preferential scoring when evaluating bids
- Flexibility to meet *Buy Ontario Act* requirements including:
 - Exemptions for time sensitive, emergency purchasing
 - A value-for-money exclusion when buying domestic goods or services increases costs by 25% or more
 - Flexibility to meet procurement rules tied to federal or provincial funding programs
- Flexible options for smaller vendors to show how they meet the directive's goals

To support local rollout, Supply Ontario has posted Guidance Materials and is accepting registration for training through the [Buy Ontario website](#).

CAO Briefing on Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build Initiative

The province's announcement earlier this week of the [Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build](#) initiative has generated many questions and concerns from the sector, especially on development charge (DC) reductions. AMO is hosting a [virtual briefing](#) on this initiative on April 9th, 2026 from 2 pm to 3 pm for CAOs. At the meeting AMO will provide an update on what we know to date about the DC reductions initiative and hear from sector officials your top questions and concerns, with a focus on what's important for technical program design.

Ontario Energy Board Launching Review of Model Natural Gas Franchise Agreement

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has launched a [review of the Model Franchise Agreement](#) which sets standard terms between municipalities and natural gas utilities for gas service. This review responds to recent municipal concerns and will look at whether updates are needed including:

- Rules for easements including notice, access, and cost-sharing when a road is being sold or closed
- How costs are shared when pipelines are relocated
- Requirements for removing decommissioned pipelines
- How any changes should be applied to existing agreements

To support municipal involvement in the review, the OEB has adopted AMO's recommendation and made a one-time exception to allow municipalities to apply for cost awards to help cover participation costs. The OEB will hold a virtual [information session](#) on April 15th, and municipalities wanting to participate in the review must [apply for intervenor status](#) by April 20th.

Provincial Rideshare Pilot Consultation

The Ministry of Transportation [is consulting](#) on a rideshare pilot along the Northlander Passenger Train corridor that would upload regulation of rideshare services to the province. The pilot would set rules for rideshare companies, drivers and vehicles for all municipalities within 30 kilometers of Northlander train stations between Gravenhurst and Cochrane for one year. Comments on the proposal are [due to the province by April 10, 2026](#).

Lessons learned from this pilot may be used to expand rideshare regulation to all communities. AMO is working with the province to understand how any potential regulations may impact municipalities.

Ministry of Natural Resources Increases Staffing Levels for Wildland Fire and Establishes Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMP) Framework

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) [announced](#) it will add an additional 68 permanent staff and increase compensation for critical staff, including wildland firefighters, pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers. AMO welcomes this announcement as it responds directly to [recommendations](#) we made to the province that encouraged MNR to provide additional resources to address challenges with recruitment and retention of its firefighters.

In addition to the new staffing measures, the province also [introduced](#) new and amended regulations under the *Wildland Fire Management Act* to establish a framework for issuing administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) to encourage compliance with wildland fire safety requirements, effective April 1, 2026. AMO previously expressed support for this measure in a [letter](#) to the Ministers of Natural Resources and Attorney General, as the greater use of AMPs can help alleviate the already overburdened provincial offences court system.

An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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[EXTERNAL] AMO Watchfile - April 2, 2026

From AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 10:00 AM

To Town Clerks <TownClerk@oakville.ca>



April 02, 2026

In This Issue:

- Annual Report - Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
- Call for Nominations for the 2026 - 2028 OSUM Executive Committee Election.
- AMO Launches Campaign to encourage participation in municipal elections.
- Help amplify AMO's candidate attraction and voter turnout campaign!
- Check out AMO's Using Social Media and Online Platforms Handguide.
- Ontario Heritage Framework Transformation: Archaeology Program changes.
- Applications Open for EASE Grant.
- Feedback Requested: Expanding the Canadian Navigable Waters Act.
- Ontario Webinar on Build Canada Homes.
- Introducing AMO Conference 2026 Keynote: Curse of Politics.
- New webinar: Mayor-CAO Relationship Series.
- Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026: Resources and Workshops.
- Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office.
- Better Rural Data for Better Municipal Decisions - join ROMA TODAY at noon.
- OSUM 2026: The Small Urban Approach to Municipal Challenges.
- Preventing Escalated Behaviours Workshop: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces.
- Canoe JOC Event in Brantford.
- Stable natural gas rates all year long.
- Streamline Your Document Signing Process.
- Building Officials Training for Housing Permit Approvals.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO released its [CCBF Annual Report](#) summarizing results from the investment of the Fund. Further details on CCBF activities, including progress on Asset Management, can be found in the [Outcomes Report](#).

[The Call for OSUM Executive Nominations](#) election is open. Those interested in running for the 2026-2028 OSUM Executive Committee term are required to fill out the attached [nomination form](#). Nomination form deadline for return is **4:00 p.m. on April 10, 2026**.

AMO has launched its province-wide campaign, When You Believe, They Believe, to showcase the everyday leadership of Ontarians and how it can translate into municipal office. Visit whenyoubelieve.ca to learn more.

Together, we can equip candidates and voters with the motivation and tools in preparation for the 2026 municipal election. By sparking participation now, we can build healthier local democracies for the future. Visit [AMO's Healthy Democracy Project public affairs campaign page](#) and download the toolkit to help amplify the reach and impact of this important campaign.

AMO's [Using Social Media and Online Platforms Handguide](#) includes practical tools and guidance related to moderating online platforms, navigating personal and official accounts and social media policies for consideration. This is one of seven guides included in AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides, which all provide practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility. These Handguides are the result of a joint initiative of AMO's Healthy Democracy and Workforce Development Projects.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is proposing changes to Ontario's Heritage Framework to streamline archaeological assessments and set criteria for evaluating Licensed Consultant Archaeologists' compliance records. [Provide feedback by April 5.](#)

The Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant awards up to \$60,000 for small capital projects for people with disabilities and older adults. Applications are open until May 7 at Ontario.ca/EaseGrant.

Federal Matters

Transport Canada needs feedback from the public on their discussion paper on the proposed expansion of the Minor Works Order under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act. [Comments are due tomorrow, April 3rd.](#)

On April 24th, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada will host a webinar explaining Build Canada Homes' portal and investment policy framework in Ontario. [Register now over Microsoft Teams.](#)

Education Opportunities

AMO is pleased to announce the Curse of Politics podcast as the 2026 AMO Conference keynote speaker. Get ready for a commotion of insights, arguments, opinions and an impossibly loud laugh or two. If you haven't already, [register today for the AMO Conference.](#)

AMO and OMAA present the next Mayor-CAO Webinar Series session on upper-tier governance, featuring experienced CAO-Warden teams sharing practical leadership insights. [Register here.](#)

Through our Healthy Democracy Project, we have designed a number of workshops and information sessions to support those considering a run for municipal office and those running again in the 2026 election. We are also offering a range of resources in addition to the workshops. [Register for workshops and access resources here.](#)

AMO has expanded their Healthy Democracy campaign information workshops. We are now offering a series of workshops for urban Indigenous peoples interested in municipal office and running in the October 2026 elections. These sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and run a campaign. [Register here.](#)

HEAR Initiative (Health, Economics, Adaptation in Rural Communities Initiative) is developing a new province-wide rural data platform designed to support more informed decision-making in rural communities. Join ROMA for an interactive information session **TODAY** at 12:00 p.m. to learn how household-level rural data can help strengthen municipal planning, funding applications, council decisions, advocacy efforts, and long-term community resilience across rural Ontario. [Register for the free session here.](#)

Join your colleagues in the Town of Parry Sound, April 29-May 1, for the 70th Ontario Small Urban Conference. In celebration of small urban leadership, we have built a program featuring key issues from

housing and homelessness, infrastructure challenges, incivility, weakened journalism, and strong mayor powers from the unique small urban municipal perspective. [View program outline and register now.](#)

In partnership with the Public Services Health & Safety Association, AMO is pleased to offer its members an interactive workshop focused on Preventing Escalated Behaviours. This session introduces practical, person-centred strategies to help recognize early signs of escalation, strengthen communication, and confidently and professionally respond to difficult situations. [Register for the two-part May 7 and May 28 workshop now.](#)

LAS

Join [Canoe](#) on April 8th in Brantford to learn more about Job Order Contracting (JOC), a new tool to modernize construction procurement. [Register Here.](#)

LAS offers a [Natural Gas Program](#) that provides stable and predictable annual commodity pricing for municipal accounts through professional management and competitive supply arrangements. Over the last 5 years, a typical LAS client has saved more than 7% on their commodity costs.

Streamline your document signing process with secure and authentic online digital signatures through the Electronic Signature service offered by program partner, Notarius by Portage Cybertech. [Learn more.](#)

Municipal Wire*

Help your building officials approve high-performance housing faster. Passivehouse Canada is coordinating a [12-hour online course](#) to provide the technical tools to review complex projects in-house, reducing delays and permit backlogs.

Careers

[Senior Advisor - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\).](#) Closing Date: April 14, 2026.

[Team Lead - Ministry of Finance.](#) Closing Date: April 16, 2026.

[Senior Data and Quality Analyst - Ministry of Finance.](#) Closing Date: April 16, 2026.

[Data and Quality Analyst - Ministry of Finance.](#) Closing Date: April 16, 2026.

[Manager of Capital Engineering - Town of Innisfil.](#) Closing Date: April 19, 2026.

[Chief Financial Officer - City of Kawartha Lakes.](#) Closing Date: April 12, 2026.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMO](#) on LinkedIn!

AMO Contacts

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April 2, 2026

Dear CAO Clohecy,

I am pleased to provide an update and clarity on the recent changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CA Act) introduced through *Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026* (Schedule 3 Conservation Authorities Act includes amendments to the CA Act).

Under this legislation, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley, Hamilton, and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authorities will merge to form the Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority (WLOORCA). A transition committee will be established within 90 days of approval, including representatives of the predecessor CA and a Project Executive appointed by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). A transition plan will be approved by the OPCA, and a copy will be provided to the participating municipalities. A transition date of February 1, 2027, is proposed.

All ongoing planning matters and services (including services offered to municipalities under Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)) will continue under the new Authority without disruption. The new Authority will assume the rights, obligations, assets and liabilities of the predecessor Authority. Additional details related to governance, watershed councils, and other matters will be finalized through future regulations.

Governance

Participating municipalities are all single- and upper-tier municipalities within the jurisdiction of the new Authority. New Regulations are proposed upon Royal Assent of Bill 97 Schedule 3, including:

- Prescribing a transition date (February 1, 2027, or later)
- Prescribing Board member details appointed to an Authority by the participating municipality
- Criteria for the appointment of a citizen member who is not a member of the council
- Watershed Councils

The formal transfer and consolidation to WLOORCA is scheduled for February 2027 (or updated per new regulations), post municipal elections, and once the new CA Board members have been appointed by the upper-tier and single-tier participating municipalities. Participating municipalities appointing members will need to notify OPCA of the appointments in writing.

2027 Budget Process

No changes are proposed to the 2027 budget process or the Budget Regulation at this time. The Province has asked that all budgets be submitted to municipalities before December 2026. The Minister may issue directions on CA budgetary matters in future.

Plan Review Services

It is business as usual for our plan review services. Accordingly, planning applications should continue to be circulated to Conservation Halton for review. Plan review comments under the Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation (O.R. 686/21), including natural hazards and source water protection, will be unchanged.

We will continue to provide our usual plan review services in a timely manner to support your ability to meet the legislated deadlines under the *Planning Act*.

Permits

It is business as usual for Conservation Halton's permitting services, with the exception of the provisions for Minister's Zoning Orders and Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator Orders (CA Act, s. 28.0.1) under Sections 34.1 and 47 of the *Planning Act*. We will collaborate with you on the efficient delivery of such permits as they arise.

Updated Fee Schedule

Conservation Halton's fee schedule for 2026 was approved by the Conservation Halton Board on February 12, 2026, and is available on our website (conservationhalton.ca/permitting/). The fee schedule meets the requirements of the Minister's List of classes of programs and services for which conservation authorities may charge a fee.

Other Services Provided through MOUs/Agreements

The recent legislative changes do not affect other services provided to municipalities. Conservation Halton will continue to work under arrangements through the signed MOUs and agreements.

We value the strong relationship, collaboration, and support of our municipal partners. We will ensure that you receive timely updates through Conservation Halton as we advance through this process over the next six months. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly or my office (Adriana Birza, Senior Advisor, abirza@hrca.on.ca).

Sincerely,



Chandra Sharma
President & Chief Executive Officer
Conservation Halton

[EXTERNAL] CTC Source Protection Committee Report on the Impacts to CTC from Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

From nogieru.eghobamien@cvc.ca <nogieru.eghobamien@cvc.ca>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 3:51 PM

To regionalclerk@halton.ca <regionalclerk@halton.ca>; graham.milne@halton.ca <graham.milne@halton.ca>; townclerk@milton.ca <townclerk@milton.ca>; valeriep@haltonhills.ca <valeriep@haltonhills.ca>; Town Clerks <TownClerk@oakville.ca>; William Short <william.short@oakville.ca>; jennifera@wellington.ca <jennifera@wellington.ca>; nina.lecic@erin.ca <nina.lecic@erin.ca>; clerks@erin.ca <clerks@erin.ca>

Cc Alex Hilson <ahilson@haltonhills.ca>; daniel.banks@halton.ca <daniel.banks@halton.ca>; jon.clark@halton.ca <jon.clark@halton.ca>; Hayley.Pankhurst@halton.ca <Hayley.Pankhurst@halton.ca>; kdavis@centrewellington.ca <kdavis@centrewellington.ca>; Keira Martinson <kmartinson@centrewellington.ca>; Kim Funk <kfunk@centrewellington.ca>; Jordan Grigg <jgrigg@centrewellington.ca>; behnam.doulatyari@cvc.ca <behnam.doulatyari@cvc.ca>; craig.jacques@cvc.ca <craig.jacques@cvc.ca>; Tamara.Chipperfield@cvc.ca <Tamara.Chipperfield@cvc.ca>

 1 attachment (351 KB)

RPT_20260325_CTCSPP_RCA Boundary Decision_fnl.pdf;

To: Councils of Halton & Wellington municipal group on the Credit Valley - Toronto and Region - Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Committee

The Credit Valley - Toronto and Region - Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Committee in their meeting on March 25, 2026, passed the following resolution #9/26:

- *THAT the CTC Source Protection Committee receives the staff report entitled "Impacts to CTC from Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities", at meeting #1/26 for information.*
- **AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to share this report with all Source Protection Authorities, and municipalities within the CTC Source Protection Region.**

In line with the above resolution, please accept the attached report from the CTC Source Protection Committee which summarizes impacts to the CTC of the proposed regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities, outlined in ERO No. 025-1257.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to Behnam Doulatyari (behnam.doulatyari@cvc.ca).

Best Regards,

Nogie Eghobamien | she/her/hers
Coordinator, Source Water Protection | Credit Valley Conservation
905-670-1615 ext. 2975
nogieru.eghobamien@cvc.ca | cvc.ca

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**TO: Chair and Members of the Source Protection Committee
Meeting #1/26, March 25, 2026**

**FROM: Behnam Doulatyari, Senior Manager, Watershed Plans and
Source Water Protection**

**RE: Impacts to CTC from Proposed boundaries for the regional
consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the CTC Source Protection Committee receives the staff report entitled “Impacts to CTC from Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities”, at meeting #1/26 for information.

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to share this report with all Source Protection Authorities, and municipalities within the CTC Source Protection Region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report informs the CTC Source Protection Committee of the potential implications of the Province’s March 10, 2026, decision on proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities. Because source protection areas are tied to conservation authority jurisdiction under s.4(1) and 4(2) of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, the proposed consolidation raises significant operational, governance, and administrative considerations for the CTC Drinking Water Source Protection Program.

Background

During the consultation period for ERO No. 025-1257, The CTC Source Protection Committee (“Committee”), on their meeting on December 10, 2025, received a [report](#) titled “ Proposed changes to the Clean Water Act, 2006, the Conservation Authorities Act and other relevant legislative and regulatory updates”. The committee directed staff to share the report with three Source Protection Authorities and local and regional municipalities in CTC Source Protection Region (SPR), as well as the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). A letter was sent to the ministries and Source Protection Authorities on December 11, 2025. A brief was shared with municipal councils on January 12, 2026.

On March 10, 2026, the Province posted a decision on Environmental Registry of Ontario regarding the “Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities”. A decision has been made on the boundaries for the regional Conservation Authorities (CA), to consolidate 35 of the current CAs into eight regional CAs, by way of statutory amalgamation, to occur in early 2027, or a later date prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, Lakehead Region CA with its current jurisdiction, for a total of 9 regional CAs. This plan will be led by OPCA. Please see ERO No. [025-1257](#) for details and mapping.

The Province, in the Technical Briefing Improving Ontario’s Conservation Authority System outlines the guiding principles below:

- Retain local influence
- Maintain CA watershed-based jurisdictions
- Reduce administrative overlap and duplication
- Strengthen CA capacity
- Continuity of services
- Improve customer service

Analysis and Recommendations

This section provides an overview of potential impacts and a few recommendations to minimize disruption to program delivery and improve resilience¹.

New Regional Boundaries

As noted in the report to the Committee noted above, under section 4 of the *Clean Water Act*, 2006, the area over which a conservation authority has jurisdiction under the Conservation Authorities Act is established as a drinking water source protection area. This requirement, which ensures the watershed basis of the program, has important operational and structural implications for any changes to those boundaries. The decision does not provide any additional information about the impact to the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (“program”). However, given the proposed regionalization framework, there are two options available to MECP:

- Aligning the SPR boundaries with the new regional CAs. In this case CTC SPR will be split across two Regional CAs. This will require revisions to existing documentation (i.e., local assessment reports, Source Protection Plan), governance (i.e., local SPA, Committee, CTC Management Committee), and digital infrastructure (i.e., software licensing, data ownership and intellectual property, data management processes, agreements, and website design).
- Keeping SPRs unchanged under the new regional CA framework. In this case CTC SPR will be governed by two Regional CAs. This path would require further legislative and regulatory changes to the Clean Water Act and will have similar operational challenges.

¹ Here **resilience** is defined as the program’s ability to continue fulfilling its mandate under changing conditions.

The proposed governance model under both options will change how lower Tier municipalities are represented at the Source Protection Authority². It is unclear at this point whether or how the watershed council would play a role in the program. Aligning the SPR boundaries with the new regional CAs will require new source protection committees to be formed if source protection is to continue as currently prescribed by the *Clean Water Act*. A new program would have to be started in the new Central Lake Ontario Region CA while the program at CVSPA will have to be merged under the new Western Lake Ontario Region CA.

In either option transitioning the program to the new structure will have significant administrative burden and challenges for governance, operation and digital infrastructure. The transfer of payment agreement through which MECP provides funding for the program, including mandatory tasks such as amendments under sections 34 and 36 of the Act, and program maintenance (governance and administration). Source Protection Authority staff will continue to prioritise maintaining service delivery, however capacity and service delivery will be negatively impacted during the transition. Delivery of the CTC comprehensive amendment has already been delayed by a year due to the regulatory and legislative changes in 2025. We also note the timelines for roll out of proposed structures coincides with renewal of Transfer of Payment Agreement, creating additional challenges for work planning and budgets.

- Additional engagement from the Source Protection Authorities and municipal councils during the transition may be required to maintain level of service, particularly as related to ongoing municipal amendments under s.34 of the Act.
- Keeping SPRs unchanged under the new regional CA framework may be easier to implement as it allows time for other components of regionalization to be prioritized. However, this option carries risk because of required amendments to the Act and its regulations.

CTC Program Priorities

With several “Large and Fast-Growing Municipalities” (Provincial Planning Statement, 2024), the current operational priorities for the CTC SPR are:

- Updating Tier 2 water budgets to ensure adequate assessment of water quantity pressures in the face of significant growth.
- Revisiting how Lake Ontario intakes are assessed under the program and implementation of improved modeling tools.
- Updating the CTC SPP policies to the latest Technical Rules.
- Development of a program evaluation framework to meaningfully assess program effectiveness.
- Increasing technical capacity in the program to maintain level of service, support municipalities facing increase in download of responsibilities from the province and offset declining technical capacity at the ministry.

² Item 16 of the [agenda](#) for the January 16, 2026 meeting of the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) Authority board of director meeting includes councils endorsed positions from CVC municipalities on the regionalization.

- Stewardship funding (s. 97 of the Act) to support successful rural water quality programs, which facilitate implementation and improve water quality.

The proposed changes to CA boundaries, under either option, would contribute little to these priorities or improving the overall outcomes of the program.

- Municipally funded collaborative initiatives such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program and Lake Ontario Collaborative Group are efficient ways for improving cross jurisdictional collaboration, maintaining the scientific base of the program, and improving technical capacity on a regional basis.
- Improved technical capacity in hydrogeology, geoscience, surface water (engineering, quality, geomorphology) are important for program success. This technical capacity can be integrated regionally through the program's Municipal Implementation Working Group to help identify and support local needs.
- Increased collaboration between SPAs and local Public Health Units to support municipalities dealing with developments relying on private service, with a focus on leveraging existing data and regional solutions.

Consultation

The Clean Water Act, 2006 established a locally driven, science-based, multistakeholder process that promotes the shared responsibility of all stakeholders to protect local sources of drinking water from threats to both water quantity and water quality. The goals of the program include the need to strategically ensure adequate good quality drinking water to support future development. The Walkerton Inquiry called for drinking water sources to be protected by developing watershed-based source protection plans. Conservation authorities were tasked with leading local source protection efforts in recognition of their technical expertise, experience in watershed-based work, and the ability to facilitate cooperation among local stakeholders. Accordingly, any changes to the program should be done through a locally driven process including direct engagement with all relevant stakeholders.

The committee has raised concerns about the lack of adequate consultation on several occasions, most recently through the letter sent to the minister, on December 11, 2025, which among other things, requested direct engagement with the source protection authorities and implementing municipalities. Legislative and regulatory changes without proactive engagement with program stakeholders will cause further implementation challenges and duplication of efforts.

- Source Protection Authorities welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the MECP through early engagement in achieving provincial priorities.

Next Steps

Pending endorsement by the Committee, staff will share this report with the Credit Valley, Toronto and Region, and Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Authorities, and municipalities across the CTC SPR.

Report prepared by:

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Date: March 18, 2026



MISSISSAUGA

RESOLUTION 0060-2026
adopted by the Council of
The Corporation of the City of Mississauga
at its meeting on April 1, 2026

0060-2026 Moved by: Councillor B. Butt

Seconded by: Councillor S. McFadden

WHEREAS locally elected school board trustees provide essential community representation and ensure accountability within Ontario's education system;

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga relies on dedicated trustee representation to reflect local priorities and advocate for the success of students across our diverse communities;

AND WHEREAS recent provincial supervision of the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, alongside proposed governance changes, raises concerns regarding the future of local democratic accountability;

AND WHEREAS maintaining direct, elected representation is critical to ensuring that Mississauga's unique geographic and growth needs are reflected in education decision-making;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Mississauga Council affirms its strong support for maintaining democratically elected school board trustees for both the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board;
2. Council formally recognizes the vital role of locally elected trustee representation for Mississauga and supports the continuation of meaningful, locally accountable representation;
3. The Province of Ontario be requested to pause any legislative or regulatory changes that would reduce or eliminate elected trustees until a transparent, province-wide consultation with municipalities, school boards, trustees, parents, students, educators and other education stakeholders is completed;
4. The City Clerk forward this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Education, all MPPs representing Mississauga, the Peel District School Board, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, all MPPs representing Peel Region, and all Ontario municipalities to encourage collective advocacy for local democratic representation in education.

Recorded Vote	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mayor C. Parrish				
Councillor S. Dasko	X			
Councillor A. Tedjo	X			
Councillor C. Fonseca	X			
Councillor J. Kovac	X			
Councillor N. Hart	X			
Councillor J. Horneck	X			
Councillor D. Damerla	X			
Councillor M. Mahoney	X			
Councillor M. Reid	X			
Councillor S. McFadden	X			
Councillor B. Butt	X			

Carried (11, 0)