



MUNICIPALITY OF
South Bruce

December 11, 2025

ERO Number 025-1257
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Conservation and Source Protection Branch
300 Water Street North Tower, 5th Floor
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7
Attn: Public Input Coordinator

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

The Municipality of South Bruce Council wish to provide comments in response to Ontario's proposed changes to improve the conservation authority (CA) system to free up resources for front-line service delivery to help protect communities and better align the work of CAs with provincial priorities. This proposal seeks feedback on proposed boundaries and criteria for the regional consolidation of Ontario's 36 CAs.

The Comments are as follows:

- The province needs to provide clarity about what stays local and what becomes regional
- Municipalities should not be responsible for the restructuring costs.
- Municipalities need to retain approval and control of annual budgets.
 - The province needs to provide information and conduct consultation of the funding model for the regional approach.
 - Budget transparency requires municipal control of representation and proven local financial frameworks that already support clear communications and accountability.
- A regional model should preserve existing structures and institutional knowledge to safeguard continuity and prevent regional decision that could inadvertently negatively impact an area within the region.
- A regional model can support shared expertise and better coordination but only if it preserves local decision making. The most effective structure is a hybrid approach, where complex technical support is regionalized but core functions remain local.

- Rural communities and the Agricultural sector need to be recognized and prioritized in this consolidation especially if the lead CA is expected to be an urban center in each region.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit feedback and look forward to seeing those comments reflected in an amended proposal.

Sincerely,



Leanne Martin
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of South Bruce