



**CHRISTIAN FARMERS
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO**
ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION

December 22, 2025

CFFO's response to Posting #025-1257 re: Boundary realignment of the Conservation Authorities.

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the proposed boundary realignments to the Conservation Authority (CA) regions in Ontario. Although our members do not have any significant concerns about the current structure, they do see opportunity for some efficiencies in this proposal but also express some concerns. Along with that there are also some questions being asked about these changes that do not have answers.

The CFFO sees a positive in this proposal to standardize fees and align some of the regulations among the CA's, bearing in mind that each region will have specific characteristics to deal with. However, the increase in geographical size of the seven regions also adds concern that it will be difficult to manage such an area. With the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency as a main governing body, the concern is that all information may not be part of the decision-making process. Here are some specific concerns CFFO has with this proposal.

1. There is a lack of explanation for these boundary realignments across the province, also that there was very little consultation with other organizations, especially the accredited farm organizations prior to the release of this change.
2. Although it suggests cost savings, the provincial government does not fund the CA's to a great degree, funding comes from the municipalities, and donations, and so cost saving is limited.
3. With the seven regions being such large areas, concern for the local influence still having a say in decision-making, may potential be lost.
4. The proposal does not clarify what will happen with ownership of property that is owned by the current CA's.
5. If streamlining is the goal, realigning the boundaries to match the 19 watersheds in the province seems more practical. If not there should be an eighth region for the Northwestern part of the province, that does not have affiliation with a southern region.

Here is our response to the questions put forward.

- What do you see as key factors to support a successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authority consolidation?
 - **More consultation with municipalities, landowners and farm organizations.**
- What opportunities or benefits may come from a regional conservation authority framework?
 - **Consistent regulations and fee structure.**
- Do you have suggestions for how governance could be structured at the regional conservation authority level, including suggestions around board size, make-up and the municipal representative appointment process?

Representing Farmers Since 1954

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- OPCA must have limited authority, should only deal with provincial issue, so the RCA's maintain decisions for its region. OPCA could be the appeal body to resolve disputes. The OPCA must also ensure that RCA's operate in a fair and transparent manner.
- Do you have suggestions on how to maintain a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority?
 - RCA & OPCA Budgets need to be reviewed by outside auditors.
 - Outside review boards
- How can regional conservation authorities maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and stakeholders?
 - More transparency, more landowners participating in problem-solving issues.

CFFO is willing to participate in more consultations with government and its ministries to ensure there is a positive outcome in the plans for CA realignments.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Henk Vaarkamp, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario